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[THE DAILY GLEANER 23 Feb]

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ALFONSIN MAKES PARTICIPATION PROPOSAL TO UNIONS

PY042120 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin last night responded to wage demands made by trade unionists last week, pledging to promote "two basic points: the control of budgetary spending and the real increase of wages." The president warned, however, that "the just aspirations of the workers cannot be realized while our inherited inflation continues."

In his promised reply to the unified General Confederation of Labour (CGT), the Committee of 20 and the Union Work Committee, Alfonsin said "in future workers must participate in the discussion of the problems facing businesses."

The Labour Ministry, the president said, must propose "a broadly participatory mechanism" which will permit workers and employers to move towards the updating of workers' collective wage contracts. Nonetheless, the president added, it will be impossible to apply the collective contracts law "until the unions have been returned to normal." The committees that would be formed under this participation system would also have to consider "the socio-economic situation of their respective activities and propose measures which would promote recovery."

On announcing Alfonsin's reply, presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said the president ordered the ministers of economy, labour, social action and public works to immediately contact the trade union leaders to study concrete ways of forming the participation system. The contacts, Lopez added, will formally begin next week.

The president repeated "the promise made during the electoral campaign: Wages will never again be an economic variable, nor be used as negotiating factors with international organizations." "The real wage increase of three percent in December and January will be maintained," the president said, adding that "the cost of living developed at an acceptable rate which was not able to break the trend set by the rise in the price of meat, the consumption of which has almost returned to historical levels."

"The policy of spectacular nominal wage increases which are later destroyed by inflation must end," Alfonsin emphasized, "and to do this we are counting on the help of the workers," adding that "the lowest income sectors will be given preferential treatment" in this respect.

The seven-page presidential statement said "the state must not spend more -- it must reallocate spending -- as a consequence a prudent tightening of the budget and sharp cutbacks in public spending are indispensable." The president also promised that "we will economize relentlessly and firmly in order to carry out the National Nutrition Plan," and announced plans for the construction of "water supply systems, since providing drinking water is just as important as providing food."

Returning to wages, Alfonsin said the government is seeking to ensure "that wages increase at a greater pace then (public service) rates and prices." The president also referred to "the strengthening of indirect wages," noting that "via a redistribution of public spending, funds have been assigned to the health, education, and housing" sectors.

"The extremely grave situation inherited (by the administration)," the president concluded, "calls for action from all sectors in order to confront the great challenges facing the Republic."

DEFENSE MINISTER ON ARMED FORCES REORGANIZATION

PY031550 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2251 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Ushuaia, 2 Mar (NA) -- Defense Minister Raul Borras has said that the Armed Forces "do not have the necessary equanimity and ability to judge their own actions" and that "it will be difficult to change them thoroughly" in the next 6 years.

Borras said that changing the thinking of the Armed Forces, the sector with the most influence over the last 50 years, could be a formidable task." He added that "we cannot give assurances that during the 6-year term of the current constitutional government the Armed Forces will undergo a thorough reform."

In comments published today by the local newspaper EL FUEGUINO, Borras said that the military must be ready "to purge a possible General Tejeros by themselves." He thus alluded to the Spanish officer who attempted to overthrow the constitutional government and is now serving a 30-year prison term.

Borras reported that the reduction in defense spending will not apply to critical border areas such as the southern zone, and said that the Tierra del Fuego people "will continue to receive the protection that they need on their long and at times burning borders."

The minister said that he plans to visit the garrisons and military bases of Tierra del Fuego and the Antarctica "to talk with officers, as there are more political concerns in larger areas."

On the regionalization of commands, Borras said that the idea is "to reestablish joint commands," and that "there will be only commands for managerial matters and training," because "operations will be carried out through the joint staff under the guidance of the president of the Republic."

The defense minister later stressed that the government "advocates the principles of socioeconomic, political, and cultural development, which are essential to the defense of the nation, rather than the national security doctrine."

Borras said that the mission of the Armed Forces is "to repel or to deter foreign military aggression, but the decision to wage war must be made by the political power."

Further on Military Reform

PY042130 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] Ushuaia (NA-DYN) -- Defence Minister Raul Borras yesterday described as an "uphill task" reforms of the Armed Forces aimed at preventing them from being "the most powerful pressure group of the last 50 years of Argentine history." He also denied that the Radical administration planned any drastic changes, although he insisted the military must be prepared to purge all potential coup plotters from their ranks.

Interviewed by the local paper EL FUEGUINO, Borras outlined his Ministry's intention of effectively merging the commands of the three services into the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He also promised that future military spending cuts would not affect key frontier areas such as the South but would be aimed at "activities which have nothing to do with defence." In other words, cuts would not be across the board, he added.

Borras included "social, economic, political and cultural development" as part of the country's defence.

RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS IN SIDE DISMISSED

PY021050 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1841 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (NA) -- Ninety high- and low-ranking retired officers of the Armed Force were dismissed from the State Intelligence Secretariat (SIDE) today, it has been reported by reliable sources. The government's decision was communicated to the affected personnel today, a decision which is the first stage in the reorganization of personnel in the main intelligence organ of the country. the head of SIDE consulted with President Raul Alfonsin on the reorganization.

The sources revealed that this measure is intended to give greater opportunity to top SIDE personnel more in tune with the democratic objectives of a constitutional government as well as to give more opportunity to civilian career personnel on the permanent staff.

USSR OFFERS TO REDESIGN MAIN GRAIN PORT

PY032100 Paris AFP in Spanish 1331 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 3 Mar (AFP) -- Yevgeniy Shcherbakov [as received] Soviet minister of the maritime fleet, has offered to redesign the port of Ingeniero White, the largest grain port, so that ships of up to 100,000 tons can operate in it in 2 years. In comments made in this city 700 km southwest of Buenos Aires, Shcherbakov said that his country's proposal will be submitted much earlier than another project, which must financed with World Bank resources. The Soviet official also voiced concern over the delays that grain shipments last year at the crowded Argentine ports. The USSR is the many buyer of Argentine grain. According to the latest official data, Argentine grain exports reached 20,307,649 tons between January and September 1983. The USSR bought 43.7 percent of that quantity (8,886,122 tons).

FRG GREEN DEPUTIES MEET INTRANSIGENT DEPUTIES

PY021338 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] FRG Green Party legislators Julius Kriszan and Cristha Nickels yesterday met with Deputies Raul Rabanaque and Augusto Conte. Kriszan and Nickels conveyed their similarity of views on the illegal repression of subversive activities that result in missing people. The meeting was held at the Intransigent Party bloc offices at the Chamber of Deputies. the FRG legislators were accompanied by (Adela Garland Pocolts) and (Elida Galete), representatives of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo.

During the meeting, Rabanaque expressed his disagreement with the Radical government's investigation of the Armed Forces' perforamce during the antisubversive repression, adding that the government's human rights policy is not strong enough. He said that the national commission that has been created to investigate cases of missing people has limited powers, and therefore it would have been better to create a bicameral congressional commission.

Augusto Conte said during the meeting that the government has not throughly investigated reports of human rights violations.

BOMB MISSES U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

PY042000 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1508 GMT 4 Feb 84

[Text] La Paz, 4 Mar (EFE) -- Today a terrorist attack created commotion in this capital when a powerful bomb caused serious damage to a house near the U.S. ambassador's residence, located in the southwestern secton of La Paz.

The Bolivian police reported that the bomb, thrown from a vehicle, was aimed at the U.S. ambassador's residence but exploded in the house next door. The report indicates that no one was injured but that the windows of several nearby houses were broken.

The residence of the U.S. ambassador is located a few meters from the Bolivian Defense Ministry, which is heavily guarded 24 hours a day.

TRANSPORTATION STRIKE TO BE SUSPENDED; TRUCE SET

PY022000 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Mar 84

[By Omar Velazquez]

[Excerpt] An agreement has been reached for the suspension of the stoppage which has been affecting the transportation sector. This decision was made during a meeting held by the economic cabinet, made up of the transportation, labor and planning ministers, and members of the Bolivian Confederation of Bus Drivers. The truce will last until 28 March, when negotiations will be resumed.

This afternoon, after economic cabinet members and representatives of the Bolivan Confederation of Bus Drivers sign a document, the stoppage will be suspended.

COB REPRESENTATIVE TO CUBAN CONGRESS RETURNS

PY021819 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Oscar Sanjines, a COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] leader, has reported that the 15th Congress of Cuban workers has reasserted the need for Latin American workers to promote actions in their respective countries in order to prevent regressive actions against democratic processes.

Sanjines represented the COB at the Congress held in Havana from 20 to 24 February, which was attended by 2,500 workers from 15 countries.

Sanjines, who returned to the country this morning, said that the Bolivian delegation read a report on Bolivia's economic, political, and social situation.

FIGUEIREDO REPORTEDLY PLANS 1988 DIRECT ELECTIONS

PY021500 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The president will probably announce to the nation his intention to reestablish direct presidential elections in 1988. This will be made through a constitutional amendment to be forwarded to Congress only after the vote is held on the Dante de Oliveira proposal to hold direct presidential elections this year. This report was released today by Carlos Chiarelli, the government's deputy leader in the Senate, who wants the government bill to be sent to Congress immediately because it would make the voting on the Dante de Oliveira proposal pointless.

FIGUEIREDO SUBMITS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

PY020220 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] Because of the difficulties that the country is going through, it is imperative to balance the budget and to drastically reduce domestic indebtedness. This is the main warning of the message that President Joao Figueiredo today submitted to Congress through Minister Leitao de Abreau on the occasion of the beginning of the congressional period for 1984. This will be the last congressional period of the current government.

In his message, Figueiredo also warns that every effort should be made to prevent the corrective measures from hindering our economic growth, which is essential for the improvement of our social structure. The president also reveals his intention to amend the Constitution gradually, but he also recalls that strict observance of the law is an essential condition for harmonious coordination between the spirit and letter of the Constitution and the sociopolitical conduct that it is supposed to govern.

The presidential message also points to the large projects undertaken over the last few years and to the achievements in the energy sector. According to the message, oil research and oil production have been promoted in the last 3 years, so that now more than 50 percent of oil consumed is produced domestically.

Figueiredo notes that, despite being in the middle of a markedly political stage, the country has never enjoyed so many freedoms and that all Brazilians, without exception, enjoy democratic freedoms that he has guaranteed in his capacity as president.

Figueiredo recalls that Congress is also part of the government, underlining the responsibilities that Congress has in the management of the country. Because of the magnitude of the burden that must be shouldered, the government has to divide itself to meet the new challenges posed by society. When I talk about the government I am not only talking about the executive branch, but also about the legislative branch, which shares responsibilities in connection with the affairs of each state, the president states.

Figueiredo reports that the program for the adjustment of the economy has yielded positive results, and that the 1983 trade surplus is the largest in Brazilian history. In his message, Figueiredo regrets the reduction in net capital inflow, which was not enough to compensate for the current account deficit. This imbalance, according to the message, was the object of new negotiations to obtain the necessary foreign financial resources in 1983.

Figueiredo points out that a well-balanced budget and a drastic reduction in domestic indebtedness are essential preconditions for a strong campaign to curb inflations and recession, promoting the productive sector, creating new jobs, reducing poverty, and reactivating the economy.

The message was read at 1500, when Congress began its first session in the current legislative period.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER RESIGNS; NESTOR JOST NAMED

PY020258 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Excerpt] In a decree signed today, President Joao Figueiredo relieved Amaury Stabile from his duties as agriculture minister, and designated Nestor Jost, the current executive secretary of the Caraja project, as the new agriculture minister. The decision was made at the request of Minister Amaury Stabile himself. In a letter to Amaury Stabile, President Figueiredo noted that because of the irrevocable character of Stabile's request to be relieved from his duties, he could no longer have him as a member of the cabinet. After regretting the loss of an efficient assistant and manager, Figueiredo thanked Stabile for the invaluable cooperation he gave the government as a dedicated and competent minister.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR PAKISTAN, INDIA

PY022345 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro left for Pakistan and India today on a 1-week visit during which bilateral relations with those two countries will be promoted. Saraiva regards the foreign minister's trip as a rapprochement mission during which issues of common interest will be analyzed and scientific and technological cooperation agreements will be signed.

Saraiva Guerreiro is being accompanied by (Linaldo Cavalcante), the president of the CNPQ [National Council for Scientific and Technological Development] and by (Jober Krisindam), special secretary for data processing systems.

CAPE VERDE ASKS HELP IN ESTABLISHING NEWS AGENCY

PY021316 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] During a meeting held by Cape Verdean Minister of Social Communications [as heard] (Corcino Fortes] and Marco Antonio Kramer, the president of the BRASILIAN NEWS AGENCY [EBN], the Cape Verdean official asked for Brazilian cooperation in the establishment of a news agency in his country.

(Fortes), who is also labor minister [as heard], has come to Brazil to attend a meeting of ministers of Portuguese-speaking countries. The meeting took place in Brasilia.

Talking with the EBN president, the African minister pointed to his country's plan to create (CABOPRESS), a news agency that should start operating in the second half of 1984. He stressed that the Cape Verdean Government is interested in arranging a cooperation program with the EBN in order to exchange information and provide personnel training.

U.S. CONCERN OVER POLITICAL SITUATION VIEWED

PY030230 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2117 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 2 Mar (TELAM) -- The United States is concerned about the problems that the regime of General Augusto Pinochet is encountering, expecially in connection with the Catholic Church, and U.S. diplomats now have to find new alternatives in relations with Chile.

The most spectacular signal of this situation was given today by U.S. Ambassador James Theberge, who met with Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle and commented on the U.S. Government's concern over what he called the political stagnation in Chile.

Del Valle pointed out that Theberge voiced his government's concern over the democratization process and the full restoration of the state of law in Chile, although his remarks were absolutely friendly and respectful of the self-determination of the Chilean nation.

Sources close to the embassies of other countries that are knowledgeable of U.S. policy in the region have said that Washington fears that the democratization of Argentina will give it a disproportional influence in a region where only Brazil has a basically military government (although it is supported by some civilian sectors) which has been somewhat successful and without the problems that Pinochet has had to confront. The Chilean Government is now engaged in a bitter confrontation with the Catholic Church.

And that is why U.S. diplomacy, whose strategy is based on regional balance, is trying to speed up the democratization of Chile, so that a more stable government may take over.

The efforts that the U.S. Government has made in this regard are in disagreement with the hardened position adopted by the Chilean president, whose main spokesman and closest assistant is Minister Secretary General Alfonso Marques de la Plata.

According to political circles in Santiago, the president's intention not to allow political parties to adopt names with religious connotations, an attitude that could force the Christian Democratic Party to change its name, has not improved relations between the government and civilian sectors.

This is especially noticeable now that Christian Democratic Party leader Gabriel Valdes is again in charge of the leadership of the coalition with which the progovernment sector should negotiate, in keeping with Ambassador Theberge's desire, if it really wants a stable and democratic institutionalization process.

SANTIAGO PAPER SCORES REMARKS BY U.S. AMBASSADOR

PY031546 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] An editorial of today's issue of LA TERCERA DE LA HORA refers to statements made in Santiago by U.S. Ambassador James Theberge on domestic political issues. The daily says:

It appears strange, to say the least, that the U.S. ambassador should express his concern at a time when both Chile and the rest of the Latin American countries are struggling in one of their [word indistinct] crises as a result, to a large extent, of the conditions imposed by U.S. transnational banks and companies and the IMF.

On the other hand, a mistaken economic pattern, in whose implementation an important role has been played by academic financial circles in the United States, has had a strong influence in bringing about that crisis. The crisis will also be aggravated through the imminent adoption of protectionist measures which will hinder the access of our copper and other products to the U.S. market.

Of course, throughout its history the United States has not shown signs of a true perception of the real situation in other countries. To mention just a single case, the only theocratic system existing in the world, that of Ayatollah Khomeyni, exists because of the stubborn blindness of the United States in destroying the shah.

In the course of his academic and diplomatic career, Ambassador Theberge has proven himself to be an expert on the penetration methods of Marxism. He should, therefore, know that his statements only serve the objectives of that ideology.

MINISTRIES' PRIORITY TASKS FOR 1984 DISCLOSED

PY021325 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] According to an official report, the following are the Defense Ministry's priority tasks for 1984: to develop activities related to national defense and the state's internal security; to ensure the participation of the members of the Defense Ministry in government activities; to supervise the use of arms and explosives; to supervise at the national level the implementation of the martial arts law; to cooperate with the Interior Ministry to implement measures to prevent and cope with the effects of natural disasters; and to adopt measures to repress delinquency and to control drug trafficking and consumption.

It is also established that the Foreign Ministry's only task is to continue implementing the program to promote exports, especially of nontraditional goods, jointly with the Finance Ministry.

It was also discussed today that the Interior Ministry's priority task is its relationship with the various districts of the country in the full implemention of what is known as the regionalization program.

The Economy Ministry, in turn, has a 30 March deadline to propose fomulas for the rationalization and modernization of the legal structure of state enterprises and organizations linked to the business sector. For this purpose, it will have to separate the state's regulatory functions from the management of its enterprises, corporations, institutions, and services as well as to create a mechanism to control the state enterprises' activities.

INTERIOR OFFICIAL CRITICIZES TERRORIST ACTS

PY241330 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Interior Ministry Under Secretary Luis Simon Figueroa has denounced the orchestrated actions carried out by elements opposed to the government with the purpose of creating an unnatural climate. He made this statement when asked his opinion on the bomb attacks in Santiago and other areas on Wednesday night. Luis Figueroa said that the government immediately started investigations to find the perpetrators and to place them at the court's disposal. He pointed out that citizens are fully aware of who is responsible for these acts and who is behind all this, which helps the government's efforts to maintain order.

STRICT SECURITY MEASURES ANNOUNCED FOR ELECTIONS

PA022130 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Feb 84 p 3-A

[Text] The Armed Forces yesterday announced that by 11 March they will implement a "democracy plan" to guarantee peace and order during the elections.

General Miguel Vega Uribe, commander of the Armed Forces, told EL TIEMPO that this plan will be carried out in coordination with the police throughout Colombia. The plan will be enforced starting 10 March and includes provisions for strict security and vigilance measures in the political commands in order to prevent the sale and purchase of votes.

It was also reported that the police will maintain special vigilance throughout all political directorates in the major cities, particularly at the campaign sites of the conservative and liberal movements. This control is aimed at guarding the lives of candidates who are running for assembly and municipal posts throughout the country because of recent attempts which have been made on their lives. General Vega stated that this plan will allow the Armed Forces to ensure that all Colombians can vote on 11 March. Strict control will be exercised at all points of entry and exit of cities, villages, and hamlets in order to prevent people from traveling to other places in order to vote again, thus violating the electoral law.

The military commander indicated: "It is the duty of the Armed Forces -- just as it has been in the past -- to guarantee peaceful and orderly elections."

Similarly, the plan provides for rigid controls throughout the country starting at midnight on 10 March, including the closure of borders, public institutions, and bars. Motorists driving from one city to another for compelling reasons will have to carry a special government permit. In zones of violence, such as Middle Magdalena, additional security measures will be applied in view of the recent bloody incidents in which military personnel and politicians have been killed. In addition, the police reported that there will be mobile checkpoints in all cities on 10 March on the eve of the midterm elections.

Permanent control has also been foreseen at all civil registry offices throughout the country in view of the death threats which have been made by subversive and terrorist groups.

The democracy plan will be coordinated by the 13th Army Brigade in Bogota. It has been estimated that no less than 20,000 men will participate in this security operation.

As of dawn on 10 March, mobile military police squads and national police members will patrol all cities.

6 CANDIDATES WITHDRAW TO PROTEST TORRES MURDER

PA031716 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota -- The body of Martin Torres Sierra, a councilman from the New Liberalism [Nuevo Liberalismo] movement who was killed by a group of unidentified people in Puerto Boyaca, Boyaca, will be brought to the capital in the next few hours.

The political leader was gunned down at noon today. His death has caused a furor in political circles, not only in the Boyaca region but throughout the country. Six principal candidates of various persuasions have announced that they will withdraw their names as a sign of protest to what they described as a vile murder. [passage indistinct]

FARC-EP, M-19 ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON DIALOGUE

PA021944 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Joint communique issued by the high command of the 19 April Movement, M-19, and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army, FARC-EP, in Bogota on 2 March]

[Text] The M-19 and the FARC-EP wish to announce to the Colombian people that they fully acknowledge the efforts undertaken by President Belisario Betancur to secure peace.

Colombia is currently experiencing an historic moment. The government's proposals for a truce and the initiation of a dialogue have produced the desire effect. We are about to agree to a truce between the guerrilla movement and the Armed Forces, but this effort is being threatened irresponsibly by those who oppose the dialogue, including the Popular Liberation Army and the National Liberation Army, which, while standing in opposition to a democratic opening and peace, apply the label "treacherous" to the two organizations that are promoting the dialogue by agreeing to the achievement of unity among the country's revolutionary forces within a single liberation front.

The FARC-EP and the M-19 are meeting their historic responsibility to the country and are willingly assuming their role as genuine champions of dialogue, truce, and a cease-fire.

Lone live the FARC! Long live the M-19! Long live the Colombian revolutionary and democratic forces!

[Signed] Ivan Marino Ospina, Alvaro Fayad Delgado, Carlos Pizarro, and (Leon Gomez), for the M-19 High Command

Manuel Marulanda, Alias Tirofijo, Jaime Guaraca, Rafael Reyes, and (Alfonso Cano), for the FARC-EP

BRIEFS

FRG POLITICAL DELEGATION VISIT -- An FRG political delegation led by (Hugo Holtz), president of the parliament's Committee for Economic Cooperation, visited President Belisario Betancur today with the intention of learning about the Contadora Group's contacts in Central America. The parliamentarians are primarily interested in learning about the state of technical and financial cooperation between our two countries. [Excerpt] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Feb 84 PA]

AEROFLOT AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE LIMA FLIGHTS

PY031548 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet airline Aeroflot has been authorized to continue its regular international passenger, cargo, and mail flights to Peru until next 22 November. Aeroflot's main flights are from Moscow to Lima and the return, Lima to Moscow, with one flight per week.

CITIZENS NEAR BORDER TORTURED IN ECUADOR

PY031123 Paris AFP in Spanish 1843 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 2 Mar (AFP) -- In Tumbes, a town in northernmost Peru, Department Prefect Alberto Balcarcel today denounced again that hundreds of Peruvian citizens have been tortured and subjected to extortion by Ecuadoran rural police units and Army officers.

Recently Balcarcel energetically denounced these actions, [word indistinct] which were verified by the Peruvian Government. Yesterday the Government lodged a protest with the Ecuadoran Government. Balcarcel this morning recounted that Eduardo Garcia Vargas, one of the two victims whose torture was denounced by the Peruvian Government, who is also a university student and a political leader, has suffered serious brain damage. Balcarcel added that hundreds of Peruvian citizens, especially from Tumbes, are being tortured for any reason by Ecuadoran rural police and by officers of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces. He added that there are many others whose mistreatment and extortion go unreported altogether.

Balcarcel added that there are many such cases. These people come from areas near the border zone, slightly toward the interior. They sell their products in the neighboring towns of Ecuador and are subjected by the Ecuadoran police to beatings, cattle rustling, and quota requirements.

HUANCAYO TOTALLY PARALYZED BY 24-HOUR STRIKE

PY022030 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1622 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 2 Mar (EFE) -- The Peruvian city of Huancayo, 415 km southeast of Lima, has been totally paralyzed by a 24-hour general strike that is being observed today in protest against the government and in demand of more incentives for regional development.

Huancayo is the capital of Junin Department, which is located directly east of Lima Department, in the Peruvian Central Mountain Range. Stores are closed and the inter-urban transportation sector is paralyzed. Barricades have been erected along the highways close to Huancayo and in the streets of the city to impede traffic. Police are patrolling the city to prevent any disturbances. The strike was decreed by the Front for the Defense of the People of Huancayo, and all city dwellers, without political exception, have joined it.

POLITICIANS BELIEVE ELECTION DELAY POSSIBLE

PY032300 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1926 GMT 3 Mar 84

[By Juan Perez]

[Text] Montevideo, 3 Mar (EFE) — Not only is there no certainty that general elections will be held in November in Uruguay, but sources in the opposition to the "de facto" government have suggested that elections should be delayed as a lesser evil.

Considering that there are proscribed citizens, it is better to delay the elections, Blanco Party leader Uruguay Tourne said today. He comments were published by the Montevideo newspaper EL PAIS, which has not been openly critical of the government.

The politician said that it is unlikely that the military regime will lift all the proscriptions imposed on political parties or groups and, above all, on Blanco Party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate.

Ferreira Aldunate, who according to the regime is in voluntary exile, is the Blanco Party presidential candidate like in 1971, although the proscription imposed on him is still in force and he remains wanted by the courts.

The Uruguayan Government has repeatedly stated that Ferreira Aldunate can return whenever he wants, provided he answers the charges that have been leveled against him. Ferreira does not seem to be at all willing to return now, although he plans to move from London, his last residence was in Madrid, to Buenos Aires. The National Party, which does not have other major leaders, will be at a disadvantage if it participates in the elections without Ferreira Aldunate. That is why some leaders think that it is better to delay the elections.

The other large party, the Colorado Party, is in a different position; its candidate, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, will have more chances if he does not have to contend with Ferreira Aldunate and if, in addition, the proscription on some leftist parties is lifted. Enrique Tarigo, the other member of the Colorado Party ticket, has already said that it is necessary to accept a "sacrifice" and accept the proscriptions on Ferreira Aldunate and on the Communist Party to save the elections. This position has been opposed by the Colorado Party sector led by Manuel Flores Silva, a young leader who is the director of the weekly JAQUE.

Recently, the military has carefully avoided making any references to dates or to the system to be adopted for the elections. At the end of 1983, the then-interior minister, General Hugo Linares Brum, retired, refused to give a date for the elections, "in view of the lack of tranquillity." Recently, in a ceremony at which he was installed as the new Army commander, General Pedro Aranco did not mention the elections. The president of the Republic also refused to talk to reporters on the issue during his visit to Brasilia.

CHIARINO QUITS; GINZO GIL NEW INDUSTRY MINISTER

PY021457 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0310 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Mar (EFE) -- Uruguayan Industry and Energy Minister Juan Chiarino Rossi today resigned his post for "personal reasons," not over disagreements with the military government. Persistent rumors yesterday indicated that Chiarino would resign to show his disapproval of the economic policy of the government of President Gregorio Alvarez, in the initial formulation of which he had had a major part. At the end of a long meeting he held today with President Alvarez, Chiarino declined to talk to the press. A few hours later, Chiarino was replaced by Filiberto Ginzo Gil, former under secretary for foreign relations.

GOVERNMENT RELEASES COMMUNIST PROFESSOR

PY042100 Paris AFP in Spanish 1223 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Montevideo, 4 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported here today that Professor Jose Luis Massera, a former deputy of the Communist Party and considered to be one of the great mathematicians of the world, has been released by the Uruguayan Government after some 9 years in prison.

Massera was sentenced to 20 years in prison for subversion, but a military court reduced the sentence by 14 years [as received]. The decision, which is part of an early release program, was made when he was about to finish 9 years in prison.

Several international organizations and foreign personalities had requested the release of the Uruguayan scientist.

IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS DISCUSSED WITH MANAGUA

PY022240 Paris AFP in Spanish 0025 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Press sources have revealed here that Nicaraguan and Uruguayan representatives have held talks aimed at improving bilateral diplomatic relations.

It has been learned that there have been contacts in Montevideo between Ramon Leets, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Bolivia, and Heber Arbuet, the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry under secretary.

In statements to a radio station, Leets pointed out that Nicaragua is interested in both countries opening consulates in the other's country.

It has been reported that Uruguay also supports the idea.

The ambassador said that the Nicaraguan and Uruguayan foreign ministers, Miguel d'Escoto and Carlos Maeso, respectively, previously talked about the matter at different international forums.

Bilateral relations were frozen after the Sandinist government took over in Nicaragua.

BRIEFS

NEW ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry released a communique this afternoon reporting that the Uruguayan Government has agreed to the designation of Carlos Humberto Peretee as the new Argentine ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Uruguay. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 84 PY]

ARGENTINA'S CAPUTO MEETS WITH DE LA MADRID

FL031556 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0235 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid met this afternoon with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo at the Los Pinos official residence. They discussed matters of bilateral interest in view of the Mexican president's upcoming trip to Argentina.

Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and Argentine Ambassador Rafael M. Vazquez attended the meeting.

Holds Press Conference

PY031910 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpts] In a press conference in Mexico City, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has said that the strength of the Alfonsin government lies in internal debate, and for this reason no one should be shocked by internal disagreements. Caputo was thus referring to disagreements within the Argentine Government over payment of the country's foreign debt.

Caputo also emphasized the need to launch a process of Latin American integration without rhetoric or pomposity. In this respect, he reaffirmed the Argentine Government's right to send aid to Nicaragua, but made it clear that this aid should not be related to Nicaraguan support for Argentina in its dispute with Great Britain over the southern archipelago, because solidarity cannot be transferred.

Caputo elaborated on the subject by noting that Argentina is determined to stop being considered the paleface of Latin America, and gave assurance that the Argentine Government will not send military aid to Central America, thereby discontinuing the policy of the former military administration.

Cites L.A. Integration, Economy

PA050118 Paris AFP in Spanish 0057 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Mar (AFP) -- Latin American integration, "one of the banners of our government, is indispensable for strengthening the autonomy, although it may sound paradoxical, of each and every one of the states of the subcontinent," Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo stated here today.

"So as not to repeat frustrating experiences, I believe that we must initiate a more concrete integration, building up gradually, but on firm bases, the bonds of political, financial, and commercial interdependence," which strengthens Latin America and the countries of the region, Caputo stated in an interview granted to AFP. On various occasions, "integration mechanisms have been implemented hastily, and the results are obvious: despite undoubtedly good intentions, instruments were generated which lost effectiveness and very large bureaucracies devoid of concrete efficiency were created," he stated.

The minister, who concluded an official 3-day visit to Mexico today, noted that Argentina is particularly interested in promoting a process of rapprochement among Latin American states.

"Many times it is felt, mistakenly, that our country, in view of its traditional, multi-faceted relations with Europe, is naturally distant from its sister-nations," he explained. However, he added, "considering the social and cultural ties that characterize us, the Argentine challenge consists of achieving real and effective integration with Latin America."

Regarding the creation of regional defense mechanisms to confront international economic pressure, the foreign minister said that that is a superior phase of integration, and therefore one that would be impossible to predict for the immediate future. "The first step is the one we are taking, which consists of identifying the necessities, so as to later undertake the creation of instruments at the subcontinental level gradually but stably," he stated.

Regarding the negotiation of economic commitments contracted by his country with world banks, Caputo underscored that "it is unthinkable for a democratic government to pay a debt of some $43 billion at the sacrifice of our peoples, when they have not benefited from the money." "The Argentine debt, which represents two-thirds of our country's gross national product today was contracted for basically speculative reasons, and it has been determined that there was complicity between the domestic financial oligarchies and large foreign financial capital," he stated.

For the Argentine foreign minister, "that mutual irresponsibility which is also affecting other Latin American countries is what brought us to the dangerous, dramatic, and difficult situation in our country." In that vein, Caputo admitted that "the banks have the right to lack democratic sensitivity," but reiterated that "they have to understand that if the debt payment terms include measures that are contrary to economic development, the possibility of creating the wealth to repay the debt will be compromised."

Regarding last Friday's meeting with Mexican President Miguel de La Madrid, the foreign minister said that, in addition to discussing topics of bilateral interest, "I expressed our country's appreciation for the special hospitality of that country and its government to our fellow countrymen who sought political asylum." "We will never forget that in the long nights of the dictatorship, which we have now left behind, Latin America, and Mexico in particular, offered their solidarity, granting asylum to the many Argentines, including many friends, who were forced to leave the country," he concluded.

PARALYZED TUNA FLEET PROTESTS U.S. BOATS

PA041854 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Feb 84 p 34-A

[Article by Javier Cruz]

[Text] Ensenada, Northern Baja California, 14 Feb -- U.S. boats, with or without permits from the Mexican authorities, continue to fish in Mexico's territorial waters while the Mexican tuna fleet remains paralyzed, waiting to receive credit for operational expenses, Luis Munoz Marin, president of the Regional Federation of Cooperative Societies of the High Seas Fishing Industry [Federacion Regional de Sociedades Cooperativas de la Industria Pesquera de Altamar], has said.

Munoz Marin added that the inactivity of the tuna fleet is causing losses of several million pesos daily, and yet the authorities are doing nothing to solve the problem. He explained that the tuna fleet's inactivity is affecting almost 3,000 families in the region and causing the idle fishermen's debts to increase.

Munoz Marin said that dozens of U.S. boats have invaded Mexico's territorial waters to fish, and that it is necessary for the authorities to intervene immediately. He demanded urgent credit for the purchase of provisions so that the fishing season can begin.

PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH POLAND FOR RESUMING TRADE

PA020411 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Feb 84 p 9

[Text] Mexico and Poland have signed a trade protocol establishing the bases for resuming the exchange of such Polish products as machinery for the textile industry, fishing boats, capital goods, and powdered milk for Mexican products such as coffee, cotton, precious metals, sulfur, and lead.

The agreement -- which was signed by Luis Bravo Aguilera, under secretary of foreign trade, and Stanislaw Gucwa, president of the Polish parliament -- also envisages new co-investments as well as the strengthening of those already in existence.

Luis Bravo Aguilera, an official of SECOFIN [Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development], pointed out that it is more favorable for the two nations to be associated in industrial co-investments as this would establish permanent bases for mutual trade and international competition in the trading of finished products would be avoided.

Bravo Aguilera said that the help Poland can offer Mexico in the pharmaceutical and fishing sectors will be welcomed, adding that there are good possibilities for co-investments in some 70 projects for the fabrication of raw materials essential to the production of medicine, both for the domestic market and export.

NEW NATIONAL ACTION PARTY LEADER INTERVIEWED

PA042355 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Feb 84 pp 1,6

[Article by Julio Hernandez Lopez]

[Excerpt] In his first day of work in the PAN [National Action Party] national headquarters, Pablo Emilio Madero [new PAN president] defended the "definite" role that businessmen and merchants will have in the transformation of the country. Madero talked about a possible increase of anticommunism in his party:

[Madero] No. I don't think we should use the term anticommunism. We must strengthen our essence. I am not anticommunist. Communism is the antithesis of everything I believe in. I am not against anyone. They are the ones who are against me. We are not going to intensify a struggle against something. No, we are going to struggle for freedom, development, and respect for individual dignity. That is what is important.

Madero discussed businessmen at the reporter's request.

[Madero] We do not have links with businessmen's associations. We invite all Mexicans of good faith to participate in the PAN. If a Mexican of good faith accepts the PAN's principles and is willing to seriously struggle for the common good and for Mexico, then he will be welcomed whether he be a peasant, businessman, worker, merchant, student, or housewife.

He stresses that government control of the economy "would not have a happy ending for Mexico," but notes that this could occur if private businessmen do not fulfill their roles.

[Madero] No, look: In the 1983 elections there were three or four candidates who were businessmen, honest people of good faith. They were welcomed, but I think that there was an awakening of an entire people and not just a group of businessmen.

[UNOMASUNO] Was this awakening stimulated by the nationalization of banking?

[Madero] I don't believe so. The nationalization -- a misnomer, because it was really "governmentization," since to nationalize would be to take something from foreigners and make it Mexican, while in the case of banking, the one activity that was not in the hands of foreigners was expropriated -- was pure and vile "governmentization." Now then, it was undoubtedly an act of presidential insolence, a robbery with an attempted cover-up through a subsequent modification of the Constitution. This act, carried out by one president and ratified by his successor, led to an awakening for more than just bankers and businessmen. It opened many people's eyes to reality. In other words, it showed how far a person can go within the system in committing an outrage in violation of constitutional guarantees and how the right to request credit can become a government matter by the stroke of a pen.

On party finances, Madero said that 90 percent of the PAN income comes from contributions by federal deputies and the remaining 10 percent from small personal donations, because "there are practically no large donors."

[UNOMASUNO] Why bring up religious topics in your statements?

[Madero] I did not bring them up, I was asked. When i am asked something -- often for reasons that I do not understand -- I answer. At this particular time, there has been a resurgence of Jacobinism in the educational field in Mexico. Private schools have been closed, and many high schools are on the verge of a strike.

Madero said that he favors relations with the Vatican, highlighted the respect that the pope's voice commands in the international community, and, when asked if Mexico should be governed in accordance with Christian doctrine, said:

[Madero] Not according to Christian doctrine, but in accordance with the Western civilization to which we belong. Of course, Christian doctrine has had a great influence on Western civilization, but Christian doctrine does not have concrete rules for solving the problems of each particular country, just general guidelines for coexistence.

PSR'S ROBERTO JARAMILLO VIEWS POLITICAL SCENE

PA020421 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Feb 84 p 3

[By Jose Luis Iribe O.]

[Text] Roberto Jaramillo, of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, PSR, has said that the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] has not lived up to what the people expected and that is has become a party lacking form instead of one of the masses as originally intended. He also said that the church has become more belligerent, and that "all it needs now is to rise up in arms."

Jaramillo told El DIA during an interview that the clergy has gained in political influence because the left has allowed divisionism. He explained that the process of unity was violated when the PSUM was created. "It was not understood that more time should have been allowed for this internal process, and logically our differences increased."

He added that the PSUM, like the entire left, should examine the policies it has implemented and accept its mistakes so that it does not make them again; otherwise, it is going to be difficult for that party to overcome the problems it is having." [quotation marks as published] What is important is for the party leaders to accept the fact that they have failed, that the crisis has revealed our mistakes, and that the PSUM and the left must update their tactics and strategy.

Jaramillo said during the interview that the PSR is reorganizing throughout the country, and that it will be stronger than when it tried to achieve unity with the PSUM. "Look, our party, the PSR, cares about unity; however, we are not going to try to register unless conditions are such that we have some guarantees in our struggle. We are not going to be a divisive factor," he said.

He also referred to the country's economic situation, and said that "the future outlook is dim if there is no advance in the country's independence with regard to the United States." However, he admitted that despite the big problems, "the social crisis is not as bad as it might be. There is evidence that the social upheaval is under control." However, the lack of organization could result in an outbreak of violence, which would complicate things.

Finally, Roberto Jaramillo said that the PSR will not join the PSUM again, and that its ranks have increased in recent months. "PSUM leaders are paying for their caprice, which was to follow the policies of other countries' socialist political parties, which messed up the PSUM plans," he said.

NEW SATELLITE SYSTEM TO EXPAND COVERAGE IN 1985

FL022220 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1824 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Miguel Sanchez Ruiz, satellite program director, has said that by 1985 Mexico will have a satellite system that will permit total telecommunications coverage of the country. The Morelos system -- which will be totally operated by Mexican technicians -- will consist of two units placed 35 kilometers [as received] above the earth by means of the U.S. Challenger space system in mid-1985.

Mexico currently uses the services of INTELSAT -- the international satellites consortium -- through the Early Bird satellite, which has permitted the international transmission of such events as the 1968 Olympics and the 1970 soccer World Cup.

The launching into orbit of the Morelos Satellite System -- named for one of the heroes who liberated Mexico in 1810 -- will permit the expansion of coverage by telecommunications services throughout the country's 2 million square kilometers of territory to the benefit of communities on the fringes of economic development.

BRIEFS

NEW TERRITORIAL COMMANDERS -- On instructions from President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, national defense secretary, has appointed six new territorial commanders. The new commanders, who will assume their duties immediately, are Brigadier General Salvador Alvarez Nahara, commander of the 3d Military Zone headquartered in La Paz, Southern Baja California; Brigadier General Angel Barron Viescas, commander of the 4th Military Zone headquartered in Hermosillo, Sonora; Division General Rodolfo Reta Trigos, commander of the 10th Military Zone headquartered in Durango, Durango; Brigadier General Mario Perez Torres, commander of the 13th Military Zone headquartered in Tepic, Nayarit; Division General Francisco Quiroz Hermosillo, commander of the 17th Military Zone headquartered in Queretaro, Queretaro; and Brigadier General Manuel Lomeli Gamboa, commander of the 32d Military Zone headquartered in Merida, Yucatan. [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 4 Feb 84 p 3 PA]

FRG DEPUTY VISITS FOREIGN MINISTER ORTEGA

PA021602 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Mar 84 p 48

[Text] FRG Deputy Volker Ruhe, vice president of the Christian Democratic group in Parliament, paid a visit to Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega Duran in his office while on a tour of Central America. Dr Peter Hartman, party secretary for foreign affairs, and Dr Walter Wellhausen, the FRG ambassador in Panama, accompanied Ruhe on the visit.

GENERAL NORIEGA VISITS FRENCH ARMED FORCES CHIEF

For a Panama City Televisora Nacional report on the visit to France by General Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces, including his meeting with General Lacaze, chief of the French Armed Forces General Staff, and his 27 February interview with Paris LE MONDE, see the France section of the 2 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

ARDITO BARLETTA'S CANDIDACY SEEN AS DOOMED

PA022024 Panama City YA in Spanish 1 Mar 84 p 14

["Public Conscience" column by Miguel Angel Moreno Gongora: "The Ennui Caused by Ardito Barletta"]

[Text] The strategists and political experts in the government party's electoral front are very worried about the effect that Nicolas Ardito Barletta's nomination has had on the public. The slow start of the campaign to promote the ruling party's presidential ticket has come as a true surprise to the ranking officials who are involved in its organization.

The efforts being made every day to sell the idea of Nicolas Ardito Barletta's candidacy collapse as they confront the sad truth, which is that the people reject it. They are concerned about the shallow effect that his candidacy has had on the innermost feelings of the people, who either do not want to and cannot grasp the government party's message.

The bottom line of the matter is obviously that Ardito Barletta's candidacy has been imposed, even upon his alleged supporters. Any such imposition would be rejected by all the Panamanian people, whether it is done by the government or the opposition. If the candidate does not emerge from the free will of the voters, his campaign is doomed to total failure. Thus, at the same time that one can observe the obvious weakening in Nicolas Ardito Barletta's campaign, disappointment and ennui are running rampant among his followers. There is an abysmal lack of enthusiasm, and such lack of faith and confidence in victory is highly contagious.

The whole thing is easy to understand. It is simply that a party that was forged in the fire of the deceased General Torrijas' protection, and that promoted leaders who gave continuity to the so-called Torrijist doctrine, cannot now, when its time has come to fight for the continuation of the process, accept or be happy with the fact that a candidate who has no links with the masses, who believed in and still believes in the party's founder, is yanked in by the hair from abroad. That is why Ardito Barletta's candidacy is doomed to the worst of failures, because of the ennui of those who should be his most enthusiastic followers.

COLUMNIST CONDEMNS GORMAN COMMENTS ON MEXICO

PA020249 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 1 Mar 84 p 4 A

["Peoples' Compass" column by Adolfo Benedetti: "Putting Up Our Guard"]

[Text] The statement by General Paul Gorman, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, regarding alleged rampant corruption in Mexico has revealed the prejudiced and discriminatory attitude of some members of the U.S. Army, particularly against anything that concerns Latin America. Because of their high-handed and all-powerful views, they will never be able to understand Latin America's uniqueness and character.

If the U.S. general did not hold such an important and powerful post in the very geopolitical center of Latin America, and if he had not been entrusted with the delicate mission of defending the Panama Canal, a strategic point in U.S. security plans, then perhaps his statement would not have been rejected by Latin American public opinion, as well as by his own State Department. U.S. State Department officials who plan and direct U.S. foreign policy cannot overlook the logical reactions that Gorman's hasty comments may provoke in North-South hemispheric relations. This is particularly clear now that Reagan is seeking to ease tension in the area through long- and short-term economic aid plans. The State Department announcement that Gorman was not speaking for the United States or any of its civilian or military agencies, but merely for himself, proves their undeniable wisdom. It also reveals the notorious lack of prudence and foresight on the part of someone who is responsible for the canal's security at a time when East-West relations are at their lowest point.

We Panamanians should not remain indifferent in the face of Gen Gorman's verbal assault on Mexico, a key country in the Contadora Group's efforts. Although we concur with the U.S. State Department that the general was merely expressing his personal opinion on Mexico, we cannot ignore such unfavorable statements by the head of the Southern Command.

Mexican Embassy Issues Statement

PA021730 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Mar 84 p 6-C

[Article by Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] The Mexican Embassy in Panama has released a brief statement issued by the Mexican Foreign Secretariat describing as "ignorant" comments made by General Paul F. Gorman, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command, which is headquartered in Panama. The comments were reported by the official press agency NOTIMEX. An official spokeswoman for Ambassador Jaime Fernandez McGregor said in his absence that the embassy upholds the Mexican Foreign Secretariat statement describing as "ignorant" the high-ranking U.S. officer's comment to the U.S. Congress on Friday, 24 February, that Mexico is the most corrupt Latin American country. The embassy also said that Gen Gorman's statement "has been interpreted as an attempt to discredit Mexico's efforts to promote peace in Central America," and said that the statement reveals his ignorance of the Mexican reality -- an ignorance that does not deserve further comment.

Gorman's comments were made during a meeting of the Armed Services Committee on Security in Central America and on proposals for economic and military aid to El Salvador. During the meeting Gorman said that Mexico could be the "number one security problem" for the United States in the next 10 years. In his statement Gorman described Mexico "as a state with a single party that has pursued a policy of accommodating its own left-wing and international leftist interests."

COSTA RICA

MINISTER DENIES REPORT OF U.S. MILITARY AID

PA020004 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 21 Feb 84 p 10-A

[Text] Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon yesterday said that the aid that the United States will send to Costa Rica will not be war equipment but radio communications equipment and vehicles. In making this comment, Solano Calderon denied an EFE report from Washington that the Reagan administration had proposed to the U.S. Congress a military aid plan for Central America in order to increase militarization in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

The United States will send no weapons to Costa Rica, as stated in these reports, Minister Solano Calderon said. He added that the aid was announced last year.

Reagan's proposal is part of the so-called Initiative for Peace, Development, and Democracy in Central America, which the U.S. State Department sent to the U.S. Congress last Friday. According to reports, the military assistance programs for Guatemala and Costa Rica are among the most controversial aspects of the initiative, which also calls for the allocation of $45 million to operate a regional military training center.

The dispatch added that experts in Central American affairs believe that Reagan's military aid program threatens the existence of the only democracy in the region: Costa Rica. The dispatch noted that "military aid for that country will inevitably lead to the creation of an army or a similar institution in the only country in the area in which there is none, according to the sources." Minister Solano Calderon denied this report as well.

OFFICIAL SAYS GOVERNMENT SEEKING DEFENSE WEAPONS

PA042322 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Colonel Francisco Tacsan, an official of the Public Security Ministry, has said that Costa Rica is negotiating with several friendly democratic governments for the purchase of rocket launchers, mortars, and rifles in order to meet foreign aggression. In comments to LA NACION, a local newspaper, which were published yesterday, Tacsan said that the request for defensive weapons and assistance has been made to several Central American and other countries, including the United States.

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS NO BREAK WITH NICARAGUA

PA021845 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Costa Rica's Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has commented: I don't think that Costa Rica should break relations with Nicaragua. The minister said that he respects the opinion of Legislative Assembly President Jorge Luis Villanueva, but he does not believe that the time has come to take such a measure.

The foreign minister indicated that his position is based on the Contadora Group's pursuit of peace in Central America. He added that Costa Rica must not break relations with Nicaragua over a single attack, but stressed that Costa Rica's peaceful position must not be seen as a renunciation of its sovereignty. The minister said that while Costa Rica is not interested in verbal charges and countercharges or in provoking a deterioration in relations with Nicaragua, it must point out evidence of actions that are taken against it. Minister Gutierrez warned that there will be no yielding on this position, regardless of threats or counter-accusations. He stressed that the government demands absolute respect for its national sovereignty. The Costa Rican Government has clearly declared that it will not tolerate any action that could endanger the country's sovereignty or integrity. If Costa Rica were to require help from any international organization as a result of Nicaraguan attacks, it would go first to the Contadora Group, Minister Gutierrez indicated, adding: Only if the Contadora Group were to fail to act would Costa Rica take the matter to the OAS. This would be the best procedure, considering the situation in the area, he concluded.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT HONDURAS 23 MARCH

PA021850 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez will go to Tegucigalpa on 23 March at the invitation of Edgardo Paz Barnica, his Honduran counterpart. During his visit he will examine the workings of the Honduran foreign office, which has demonstrated in Contadora Group negotiations that it is an efficient organization, and will discuss bilateral matters with Paz Barnica. This visit is also intended to demonstrate support for the Central American country that has the most advanced democratic process in the area next to Costa Rica's, and whose government was chosen in free, honest elections. The Costa Rican minister will also meet with the president of Honduras during his 1-day visit.

GOVERNMENT EXPELS ARDE MEMBER CHAMORRO

PA040432 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0353 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Government officials in San Jose have said that a prominent leader of a rebel group fighting the leftist Government of Nicaragua today was expelled from Costa Rica because of his "military activities against the Nicaraguan Government." A policeman at the San Jose airport told LATIN-REUTER that Fernando Chamorro, a member of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] was put on an airplane headed for Panama. Chamorro is second in command to Eden Pastora. ARDE's founder and a former member of the Nicaraguan revolutionary government who broke off from the group after becoming disenchanted with the revolution. Costa Rica, a self-proclaimed neutral in the conflicts of the region, said last year that it will fight the insurgents who use its territory as a base from which to launch attacks against Nicaragua across the mutual border.

NICARAGUAN SOLDIERS REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM

PA042238 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports received from the Intelligence and Security Directorate [DIS], two members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] yesterday requested political asylum in Costa Rica.

The EPS deserters, carrying their Chinese made AK-47 rifles, surrendered at the border area of La Cruz. They were identified as 20-year old Luis Felipe Miranda Gutierrez and 22-year-old Francisco Zapata Martinez, residents of Rivas Department, Nicaragua.

The deserters told the DIS that they were members of a communications battalion that has its basic training base near the Costa Rican border. The men were able to escape and reach La Pimienta Hill at the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border. Yesterday afternoon the DIS transferred the two deserters to San Jose.

SPY NETWORK REPORTEDLY UNCOVERED IN COUNTRY

PA042316 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The Costa Rican National Security Agency has uncovered an ultraleftist international spy network in our country which includes Cubans. These communist spies have infiltrated the government; some even hold sensitive positions. One of their top leaders is a Cuban who entered Costa Rica in 1980 as a tourist. A search is underway to capture him. He is approximately 53 years old and has been supplying information on Costa Rican national security matters to communist countries on the continent and abroad.

EL SALVADOR

DEFENSE MINISTER TO TESTIFY IN U.S. NUNS CASE

PA041524 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 2 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] General Eugenio Vides Casanova, defense minister; and Colonel Francisco Moran, president of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission, CEL, will be called to testify in the case of the four U.S. nuns who were murdered by former National Guardsmen. Their testimony will be heard by the judge at Zacatecoluca, who will meet with Casanova at the latter's official office, while Moran must go to the court in response to a judicial order.

According to reports, defense attorney Cesar Augusto Cana has resigned from the case because the judge at the Zacatecoluca court did not accept his petition to call Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador; Jose Guillermo Garcia, former defense minister; Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova, current defense minister; and the members of the revolutionary government junta. Thus, another attorney, reportedly Efrain Ventura, was named. He agreed to defend the prisoners, however, only if Dr Cana's petition were granted.

After reconsidering the petition, the judge agreed to Ventura's oral request and recommended that he put it in writing. He said, however, that only Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova and Col Francisco Moran would be called, because they were the directors of the National Guard and Treasury Police, respectively, at the time of the nuns' murder.

Thus, Gen Vides Casanova will testify at his offical office, while Col Moran will do so at the Zacatecoluca court in accordance with the judge's decision, which grants in part the petition from the new defense attorney for the former National Guardsmen.

FRG DEPUTIES VISIT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PA040442 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 3 Mar 84 pp 5, 41

[Excerpts] A delegation from the human relations commission of the FRG's parliament (Bundestag) has visited the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission to obtain information on the violence occurring in the country. The delegation is composed of FRG deputies Ingeborg Hoffman from the Christian Democratic Union and Horst Haase from the Social Democratic Party. Prior to leaving, the FRG parliamentarians expressed their moral support for the work being done by the Human Rights Commission and their hopes for further improvement, because it is through respect for human rights that human coexistence can be achieved. It is an objective worth struggling for.

COPREFA: ARMED FORCES TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING

PA040352 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, in San Salvador, date not given]

[Text] In view of local and international speculation about whether th Armed Forces will or will not vote in the upcoming presidential elections, the Armed Forces High Command states:

1. As Salvadoran citizens, Armed Forces members have a constitutional right to participate in the process to select their leaders.

2. Armed Forces members also have a constitutional duty to fulfill -- to protect the security, peace, and tranquility of the Salvadoran people.

3. Terrorist threats to boycott the electoral process have caused El Salvador to experience a unique situation.

4. Therefore, despite their right to vote, and in compliance with a constitutional order, the Armed Forces will abstain from voting and will dedicate its efforts to protecting public security, peace, and tranquility during the electoral process.

EIGHT PARTIES REGISTERED WITH CCE FOR ELECTIONS

PA020443 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Report by Belardino Garcia]

[Text] Eight parties have registered at the Central Electoral Council [CCE] to participate in the 25 March elections. So far, the PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party], ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party], PDC [Christian Democratic Party], AD [Democratic Action], PCN [National Conciliation Party], MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement], and POP [Popular Orientation Party] have registered.

The POP registered last night at 2250 with Guillermo Trujillo as its presidential candidate and Rene Rivera as the vice presidential candidate.

The PCN has registered Francisco Jose Guerrero as its presidential candidate and Pio Arnulfo Ayala as its vice presidential candidate.

The PDC has registered Jose Napoleon Duarte as its presidential candidate and Rodolfo Castillo Claramount as its vice presidential candidate after the registration of Pablo Mauricio Alvergue as a vice presidential candidate was ruled illegal because he holds the office of third vice president of the Republic.

The PPS has registered Francisco Quinonez Avila and Ana Celia Campos de Tovar. ARENA has registered Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta and Hugo Barrera. The AD has registered Rene Fortin Magana and Luis Nelson Segovia. The PAISA has registered Roberto Escobar Garcia and Jose Armando Chavarria. The MERECEN has registered Juan Ramon Rosales y Rosales and Rolando Lopez Fortis.

The Legislative Assembly has appointed Guillen Enrique Moreno as PAISA representative to the CCE. He replaces Rafael Angel Hasbun of ARENA who resigned last year and whose place had been filled by Ricardo Posada. Posada has announced his resignation because with Guillen Moreno's appointment he became an alternate rather than a principal representative. ARENA lost the vacancy when it did not appoint Hasbun's replacement. It is foreseen, therefore, that ARENA will not be represented in the CCE.

JOURNALISTS WHO SUPPORT LEFTISTS THREATENED

PA021605 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 1 Mar 84 p 2

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Anticommunist Command -- date and place not given]

[Text] We inform all radio, television and press journalists that we will execute all of those who cooperate with the enemies of our Republic, either by sending dispatches that distort the facts, by repeating false reports from abroad that only confuse our people, or by playing the game of the terrorist bands or of those bands of journalists who are paid by intenational communism. For victory over communism!

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT, REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY

Clash in Tierra Blanca

PA020250 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Report by Alberto Vasquez, correspondent in San Miguel]

[Excerpt] The 3d military zone in San Miguel today reported that an armed clash occurred between 3d military zone troops under the command of Colonel Domingo Monterrosa Barrio and subversives in Tierra Blanca canton, in the jurisdiction of Chirilagua. The subversives suffered three dead and six wounded while the 3d military zone suffered two dead and three wounded. The subversives fled in disarray. The troops confiscated a large quantity of supplies and began a combing operation to destroy subversive redoubts.

Rebels Destroy Power Lines

PA022245 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Leftists blew up the primary pylons supporting the high-tension wires leading to the San Antonio Abad substation at 0555.

According to initial reports from civilians and military authorities north of San Salvador, the pylons are located between San Salvador-Apopa and Apopa-Guazapa. Central, northern, southern, and western San Salvador are without electricity. Some areas have power from the emergency systems of the diesel-powered Agua Caliente substation in Soyapango. Leftist guerrillas have also destroyed secondary high-tension wires supplying electricity to towns in northern San Salvador and Chalatenango Departments. Those towns have been without power since 0200.

Meanwhile, artillery units have been shelling the Guazapa Hill area as part of a counter-insurgency operation that began yesterday afternoon.

Sources have also reported that since early this morning there has been heavy fighting in the area of Tecomatepe, Istagua, and San Francisco in Cuscatlan Department.

Military sources have confirmed that about 500 youths were recruited yesterday in San Salvador to serve in the Army, as the obligatory military service law establishes.

Meanwhile, leaders from the union of the National Administration of the Waterworks and Sewers, ANDA, have confirmed that four of their leaders have been under arrest since noon yesterday.

For the fifth consecutive day, the Armed Forces have been diligently patrolling and have been involved in heavy fighting in northern San Miguel Department, especially north of Nuevo Eden de San Juan, Carolina, and San Luis de la Reina, resulting in the dismantling of 2 guerrilla camps and the deaths of some 10 rebels in the past 24 hours.

Battles Fought in Guazapa Area

PA022327 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Intense battles have been waged since early today in the western foothills of Guazapa volcano after troops entered the area where leftist guerrillas have been disrupting traffic to demand a war tax and sabotaging electric power installations. Artillery and Air Force units have been attacking FMLN positions in the area. At dawn the guerrillas destroyed high tension wires, leaving all of Chalatenango and northern San Salvador Departments without power. Water service has also been suspended in more than 30 towns of those departments due to the blackout.

Traffic from Suchitoto to San Salvador was disrupted at dawn because of FMLN guerrilla attacks on military positions. The guerrillas have also erected barricades at different points on the road from San Martin to Suchitoto. Air Force planes have bombed the rebel positions. Communications with Suchitoto were cut after the initial attacks and remained out as of early today. Red Cross units and groups of newsmen today tried to reach Suchitoto, but passage was impossible near Las Guaras Bridge, where according to reports five soldiers were wounded and three guerrillas died during the attacks.

Other reports indicate that eight soldiers were killed this morning defending their positions at Las Guaras Bridge about 8 km north of San Martin. The fighting has halted traffic to Suchitoto. The initial reports indicate that the FMLN guerrillas attacked several military positions on the road. This is the guerrilla groups' first serious incursion this year. Intense battles were waged in Istagua, La Esperanza, and near San Pedro Perulapan. Airborne troops were transported at dawn to San Martin and nearby areas to reinforce the troops who were attacked by the guerrillas, whose casualties are unknown.

Rebels Attack Las Guaras Bridge

PA030419 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Our "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977" national military campaign is advancing. The following information has been received from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front:

FMLN units today, 2 March 1984, at 0025 attacked a company of the Cojutepeque No 5 Detachment stationed at Las Guaras Bridge on the new road leading from San Martin to Suchitoto. The attack was carried out by the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza group composed of battalions and vanguard units. After a few hours of fighting the enemy fled. Our forces were still in the area when this report was sent to Radio Venceremos.

Early reports from Cuscatlan Department indicate that we have recovered one 60-mm mortar, one 90-mm cannon, one M-60 machine gun, and seven rifles. We will continue reporting.

This operation is within the framework of our "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977" national military campaign.

Army Operation on Guazapa Volcano

PA040329 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] According to military reports, artillery and Air Force attacks on the foothills of the eastern side of Guazapa Volcano this morning continued with positive results for the Army. Fifteen rebels have been reported killed in the clashes in this northern area of San Salvador Department. Currently, 1,000 men are carrying out an operation to patrol, search, and destroy rebel redoubts on the Guazapa Volcano and along a sector of the Northern Trunk highway. It has also been confirmed that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and its presidential candidates postponed yesterday's political rally in the town of Guazapa due to the situation in the area, which would have endangered the lives of the party members.

Meanwhile, clandestine radio stations have said that yesterday's destructive actions in San Salvador marked the 12th anniversary of the first attack against Army soldiers by leftist rebels. In 1972 rebels killed two National Guardsmen who were guarding the (Bloom) Hospital in San Salvador. Military sources have said, however, that these actions had nothing to do with the anniversary but were aimed at attracting attention in view of the upcoming presidential elections. Destructive actions such as these don't interest the Salvadoran people because they damage the country's economy, according to military sources.

Meanwhile, part of the capital city, especially the northern sectors, remain without vital electricity.

Farabundo Marti on 2 Mar Actions

PA032135 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] On 2 March we fought in the eastern and central parts of our fatherland against the dictatorship's troops. We are fighting injustice and exploitation! A company from the 3d Infantry Brigade, commanded by Monterrosa, was disbanded near Ciudad Barrios.

[Words indistinct] Cuscatlan Department was dislodged, and our van guard units recovered 10 U.S.-made weapons yesterday. In Cuscatlan, we seized from the enemy one 60-mm mortar, one 90-mm cannon, one M-60 machine gun, and seven M-16 rifles, as well as a PRC radio and a large amount of ammunition and war materiel. In the east, the enemy lost two additional rifles and one additional PRC military communications radio.

The dictatorship's troops are refusing to fight, and they are abandoning their trenches as our glorious people's army advances. Thus we honor our 28 February 1977 heroes, who were massacred during the electoral farce imposed by the antipopular National Conciliation Party.

All our weapons to the battlefield, all our weapons toward victory!

Venceremos on Army Casualties

PA041658 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Twelve years after the Salvadoran people seized their first two rifles, our revolutionary army is winning new victories. Our "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977" military campaign is continuing to advance. We have information on the actions carried out by our forces on 2 March.

Units from the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade attacked troops from the 2d Battalion of the 3d Infantry Brigade, who held rearguard positions near Ciudad Barrios in northern San Miguel Department. Our forces forced an entire company from the 3d Brigade to flee in disarray. Because of the rout of forces they finally attacked each other so that Colonel Domingo Monterrosa's troops fled in disarray to Ciudad Barrios.

We have been informed that the enemy suffered 13 casualties in these clashes, 3 dead and 10 wounded. We also recovered two M-16 rifles and one PRC-77 radio from the enemy. This information was provided by Commander Alfredo.

Elsewhere, we have final reports from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front on the actions that took place when a company from detachment No 5 of Cojutepeque was attacked on 2 March. This company was guarding the Las Guaras Bridge on the new highway from San Martin to Suchitoto. We now have a complete list of the weapons that were recovered in this action on the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. The war supplies recovered from the puppet army are as follows: one 60-mm mortar, one 90-mm cannon, one M-60 machine gun, and seven M-16 rifles. We also inflicted on the dictatorship forces 18 casualties, including 10 dead, among whom was a cadet lieutenant. This operation was part of the "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977" campaign.

Shooting Near Government Center

PA050326 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Well, friends who listen to the foremost news station of El Salvador, we interrupt our newscast to urge, to urgently request that drivers of automobiles and buses refrain from going through the streets close to the Government Center. We have been informed at this time, 1905 [0105 GMT], that there is intensive gunfire in that area in addition to a power outage in an extensive sector of Juan Pablo II Avenue and at the Government Center itself, where quite heavy gunfire has been heard for approximately the past 3 minutes.

We repeat our appeal to listeners of this station who are traveling in cars and buses to be extremely cautious in the area of Juan Pablo II Avenue and in the area around the Government Center.

Explosions, Outages in Capital

PA050155 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0139 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Mar (DPA) -- Strong explosions followed by intense gunfire were heard today in the Salvadoran capital, and large sectors of the city were without electricity. According to preliminary reports, the explosions occurred in the sector of the Government Center. A radio newscast reported that high-tension towers had been blown up in the sector of Escalona residential zone. The southern sector of the capital, including San Jacinto neighborhood, was without electricity. According to the police, no casualties have been reported.

REBELS CLAIM HONDURAN TROOPS CROSSED BORDER

PA050335 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0250 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Your attention for this information received by Radio Venceremos: Honduran troops have penetrated Salvadoran territory in Morazan Department. We have been informed that yesterday, Saturday, the Honduran Army transported 300 soldiers to the town of Santa Elena -- soldiers of the 7th Infantry Battalion with headquarters in Marcala, Honduras. The report adds that at 2200 hours a Honduran Army patrol penetrated Salvadoran territory through the area of El Alumbrador Hill, Morazan Department. The Honduran troops also advanced into Salvadoran territory through (San Juan de Agua). The report adds that between 1600 and 1700 hours another Honduran patrol was deployed to the area of (El Roble Negro), northwest of San Fernando, Morazan Department, only 700 meters from the border with El Salvador.

Once again the army of the U.S. puppet, General Alvarez Martinez, has violated our territory with its scouting activities in preparation for the U.S. plans to intervene in our country. We have already denounced the fact that the United States is using Honduras as a springboard for its aggression against the Salvadoran people.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES EXPLAINS DEPUTY POSITION

PA022238 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores said yesterday: Even if I were to be killed, the process of returning to constitutionality would continue inexorably. Mejia Victores made this comment yesterday while explaining the creation of the position of deputy head of state.

The head of state spoke to newsmen in Puerto Quetzal after inaugurating work on the superstructure of the port. The reporters asked him about rumors generated by the decision to make the chief of the National Defense High Command, in this case Colonel Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, the deputy head of state. Rumors cite two possible reasons for the appointment:

1. For some special reason, Gen Mejia Victores could resign as head of state.

2. There could be plans for an attempted coup d'etat, as has been rumored and which some press agencies have even reported.

Gen Mejia, giving expansive explanations for the appointment, said that, indeed, anything can happen and added: "I do not have a lease on life." In any government structure, he noted, there is always a second in command. This is traditional and commonplace in the military hierarchy, so that there will be someone to take over in the absense of the commander in chief. Moreover, he added, some contingency, emergency, or accident could occur unexpectedly.

There could even be an attempt on my life, but if this happens, even if I am killed, no one will stop the process of returning to constitutionality. That is why a deputy head of state has been appointed -- to continue on the path to a normal state within the law and in the framework of the commitments that the present regime has made to the Guatemalan people, Mejia Victores said. Gen Mejia Victores again emphasized his intention to remain absolutely neutral, supporting no particular candidate.

300 FAMILIES REPORTEDLY EXPELLED FROM BELIZE

PA030351 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Mar 84 p 17

[Text] Peten -- Approximately 300 Guatemalan families, who had lived in Belize for many years, have been expelled from that country by an arbitrary decision of local authorities. This information was revealed by several people who were interviewed by a PRENSA LIBRE correspondent at the border.

They said that black policemen started a search throughout Belize to look for Guatemalans, who were given a few days to leave the territory and were insulted and threatened with death.

The Guatemalans, who had been arrested, think that Belizean Prime Minister George Price's decision was related to the recent robbery of an agency of the Royal Bank of Canada and the holdup of a sugar mill's paymasters. The black policemen said that these robberies were perpetrated by bands reportedly composed of Guatemalans.

Carlos Siliezar, one of the expelled Guatemalans, said that there are approximately 150 Guatemalans imprisoned in Belize's rotten jails and that they have futilely begged to be released. They request the Foreign Ministry's assistance to avoid abuse.

ONE SOLDIER KILLED, ANOTHER WOUNDED IN AMBUSH

PA030104 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] It has been officially reported that terrorists yesterday afternoon ambushed two Army vehicles on the highway between Cuilapa and Chinquimulilla, Santa Rosa Department, killing one soldier. The ambush was perpetrated with a Claymore mine, which exploded when the vehicles passed by. The vehicles were carrying civilian affairs and local development personnel from a military zone.

The attack took place in Rio Frio jurisdiction. One soldier was wounded. The official information adds that the attackers left behind additional explosives.

HONDURAS

REPATRIATION OF SOME SALVADORANS ANNOUNCED

PA021825 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, director general for population and immigration policy, has reported that certain Salvadoran refugees who expressed a desire to return to their country will be repatriated in the next few days. The voluntary return of the refugees could take place next weekend or early the following week, in coordination with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]. The immigration directorate will help guarantee the return of these people to their homeland, which they left because of social unrest.

The officer said that he has no official knowledge of cases in which refugees have aided the Salvadoran rebels, as has been reported, and that there is no reason, therefore, to deport the refugees. He also said that a census like that carried out last year will be repeated every 8 months so that the exact number and whereabouts of the immigrants on Honduran territory can be determined. Suarez added, however, that many people who entered Honduras as refugees are not under the supervision of the UNHCR or the National Commission for Refugees, particularly in El Paraiso, Choluteca, and Valle Departments. As a result, it has been impossible to organize them to date.

NICARAGUA

BORGE ON U.S., CONTADORA, TIES WITH USSR, CUBA

PA030453 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 11 Feb 84 p 17

["Exclusive" interview with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge by correspondent Roberto Bardini in Managua on 10 February]

[Excerpts] [Bardini] Commander, does the Sandinist government really have faith in the Contadora Group efforts?

[Borge] Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela have effectively contributed to the prevention of U.S. military intervention in Central America. The existence of the Contadora Group not only allows the possibility of negotiations but is also a barrier against an armed invasion. The Reagan administration would have found it easy to intervene in the region without the efforts of this group, which has been an obstacle to its plans.

[Bardini] The repeated joint military maneuvers staged by the United States in Honduras and the Caribbean, plus the invasion of Grenada, are issues of concern to the Nicaraguans. What would happen if the U.S. military were to invade Nicaragua?

[Borge] The role of the Contadora Group is to organize serious negotiations. However, this does not make us overly optimistic. In the long run, we have faith in the Nicaraguan people; they will form the trench that defends this country. We know that we will have no direct participation or help, except the moral, fraternal solidarity of the peoples.

[Bardini] What do you think about the possibility of Ronald Reagan's reelection as President of the United States?

[Borge] Nicaragua is 80 times smaller in size and population than the United States. The total cost of constructing the strategic U.S. B-1 bombers is 62 times the annual budget of Nicaragua. Our doctrine, our weapons, however, are strictly for defensive purposes. to us, the candidate for the U.S. presidency is not Reagan but war. What the U.S. citizens would reelect would be danger. The covert and not so covert actions against our country are costing U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars. tomorrow the cost could be thousands of lives. we would prefer to stage a war against underdevelopment instead.

[Bardini] In addition to the East-West confrontation, oneof the most common topics mentioned by the U.S. Government and some of its Central American allies is the Soviet and Cuban "influence" in Nicaragua. Could you please tell me what kind fo influence this is?

[Borge] All peoples -- particularly the revolutionary peoples -- influence each other. Contrary to what many people say, I have heard Cubans talk about the influence of the Nicaraguan revolution in their country. Even Fidel Castro, I believe, has mentioned this influence.

[Bardini] My question concerns the influence that Moscow and Havana have on the Nicaraguan Government...

[Borge] I must admit that the Cuban revolution has had some influence in our country. We must learned from the Cuban mistakes, in order to avoid the same mistakes here. Cuba's influence in agrarian reform and economic policy has been important in relation to both its good and bad points. The Soviet influence has been much smaller, but we take its experience into consideration, just as we value the experience of other countries of the world. This does not mean that the Nicaraguan revolution does not have its own profile, personality, and determination.

[Bardini] Nevertheless, isn't there excessive commercial dependence on the countries of the socialist bloc?

[Borge] No, there is no such dependence. In the economic field, our relations with non-socialist countries are four times greater than with socialist countries. During 1982, only 8.8 percent of our foreign trade was with socialist countries. Our trade with Western Europe or the United States is twice our trade with all the socialist countries combined. The comment that the USSR and Cuba greatly influence Nicaragua shows a lack of knowledge about our feelings and our national pride. The comment implies that we have no criteria of our own, that we do not respect the blood of our martyrs, and that we are just puppets. Many U.S. citizens -- who are friends of Nicaragua -- have witnessed our national pride.

BORGE CRITICIZES U.S. AT SANTOS LOPEZ TRIBUTE

PA041910 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2151 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Speech delivered by Interior Minister Tomas Borge at a posthumous tribute to national hero Colonel Santos Lopez at the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] Companeros of the FSLN National Directorate and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; companeros of the Sandinist Assembly and government ministers; companeras wife and daughter of Col Santos Lopez [applause] companeros of the State Council; companeras mothers of heroes and martyrs of the revolution [applause]; companeros veteran fighters of the army that defended our national sovereignty [applause]; companeros representatives of the mass organizations [applause]; Brigadier General Rolando Kindelan, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him [applause]; members of the diplomatic corps; heroic Nicaraguan people [applause]:

The heroic lives of men like Santos Lopez reflect the lives of thousands of men and women, of peasants, workers, and students who, with the highest self-denial and loyalty to the lesson of sacrifice that Sandino taught us, gave up their lives without even demanding from their homeland a small plot of land for their burial. To be revolutionaries, to build a revolutionary society is to be true to those fighters. We can never betray them because history is the memory that moves men to action, to firmness, and to the intransigent defense of revolutionary principles.

Naturally, there are those who would like this government to stop its advance on the revolutionary path. For the ideological heirs of Moncada, Díaz, and Chamorro, for the Liberals and Conservatives who toasted the assissination of Sandino with champagne and brutal joy, the revolution is the nightmare that ended their privileges and their fierce protector, the National Guard. Today, these men are worried about the institutionalization process that we are beginning and wistfully hope that they could end the revolutionary process.

It is curious, although not surprising, to see how the reactionaries repeat the messages of the U.S. Government like old parrots. They think in English while translating the dispatches from the lying transnational news agencies into Spanish. Both in the White House and here, these trained parrots repeat that the institutionalization of the Sandinist people's revolution simply amounts to the fulfillment of one of the many commitments that the FSLN made to the OAS or to the Yankee government before the triumph of the revolution. We want to clarify for these gentlemen -- though perhaps they will be rendered even more confused than they already are -- that the only commitment that we made was to carry out the revolution, and we made that commitment to our immortal dead alone. [applause]

Mr Shultz says, and the ideologists of submission quickly repeat it here, that we have betrayed the revolutionary process. What revolution are they talking about? The revolution of free enterprise, the revolution headed by the businessmen in COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], the revolution of inquisition. We promised to carry out the revolution of Santos Lopez, Carlos Fonseca, and Augusto Cesar Sandino, the revolution of the poor, the revolution of the classes that hunger for justice, the revolution of the workers and the peasants. It is that and only that revolution that the Nicaraguan revolutionaries will never betray. [applause] They probably expected this revolution to be a quasi-revolution, which would be anti-imperialist only for a few days. How poor was their understanding of our struggle. We would be concerned and very worried were Reagan, Shultz, or Kissinger to praise this revolution or to suggest that we are on the correct path. The world's peoples would then view us with suspicion, for it would mean that we are not carrying out the revolution. This revolution will continue to be anti-imperialist. Even though it pains the heirs of betrayal, a deep social revolution will continue to take place here. [applause]

They say here, because they heard it up north, that our elections must be internationally supervised. What a lack of respect and of decency! Why don't they suggest that we Nicaraguans go supervise the U.S. elections? [applause] Or is the U.S. imperialist government more worthy of respect than the Nicaraguan revolutionary government? All of this is simply a smokescreen, to hide their insecurity and powerlessness. They know that their standing with the people is hopeless and that they have arrived at their historical menopause. After all, they aren't so naive. Even though they are bent on swimming upriver, they know on which side the great majority of the people stand, and they are terrified of ridicule, of having the wind snatch away the miserable cover that barely conceals their shame. [applause]

Along with the campaign to promote electoral abstention, we have information that in the face of the military failure of their freedom fighters and their task forces, the imperialists have ordered their mercenaries to begin a new criminal, terrorist escalation against economic objectives in the next few weeks and once again to reactivate the counterrevolutionaries' military activity. They have also ordered the infiltration of commando groups that specialize in death. They have ordered the bombing of Nicaraguan towns. They have concentrated mercenary pilots in neighboring countries. They have supplied both the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] and ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] with new air and naval equipment. What is worse, they have ordered that our ports be mined, a criminal act that is unprecedented on our continent, thus endangering international navigation.

Nicaragua is not officially at war with the United States. Nevertheless, the U.S. Government, without the slightest shame, supplies the counterrevolution with all sorts of weapons, and now with naval mines from its own military arsenal. A cowardly and savage act like this should and surely will provoke world indignation. It is a dangerous game, the most dangerous game of all, which seriously endangers all efforts to secure peace. It breaks all rules of the game.

According to them, by striking at our economy and destabilizing us economically they will stop the revolutionary process, provoking the people's discontent and international fear. Of course, what they will actually provoke is not only greater discontent, but more anger and indignation among the people toward the enemies of the revolution, and they will provoke more fervor and enthusiasm for the Sandinist revolution and increased international solidarity with our people.

Can anyone in his right mind believe that the people of Santos Lopez and Carlos Fonseca will want those who toasted Sandino's assassination with champagne to return? If we are sure of victory, it is because the FSLN, in its demonstrated realism, knows no possibility but victory. If we are sure that the FSLN will continue to have the overwhelming support of the people, it is because the FSLN is the people.

ASTORGA ON CONTADORA GROUP, U.S. 'INTERVENTION'

PA020356 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga has termed as positive the meetings held yesterday and today in Panama by the Contadora Group foreign ministers. The deputy foreign minister said that some progress had been achieved and that the discussions were productive, but greater dynamism will be necessary on 30 April.

Discussing the U.S. involvement in the regional crisis, she called that country the great omnipresent absentee. She stressed that the presence of the U.S. fleet in the area and the deployment of a large number of troops on the Honduran border are an obstacle to peace. She pointed out that this could artificially create a confrontation between the Honduran and Nicaraguan Armies to justify a direct intervention by the United States.

ARDE MINES PACIFIC PORT; OFFICIALS RESPOND

ARDE: Port Corinto Mined

PA021628 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces to "the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world," from Parapiqui in "liberated Nicaraguan territory" on 1 March]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports:

On the evening of 29 February, the Lidia Madiaga unit, which is a part of our internal resistance forces, mined the waters of the port of Corinto, on Nicaragua's Pacific coast, with high-powered explosives.

ARDE warns all international shipping lines, the regime's Navy, and all fishing vessels that they will be entering and leaving the port at their own risk. ARDE has repeatedly declared that the coasts of Nicaragua are war zones. Therefore ARDE will not be responsible for any loss of civilian life in those areas. This operation and a similar one that ARDE's Barracuda unit carried out in Port El Bluff a few days ago are intended to prevent the entry of war supplies from the USSR, Vietnam, the Eastern European nations, and other countries that are intervening in Nicaragua in support of the nine commanders' totalitarian regime.

ARDE wishes to point out that those non-military supplies that are necessary for the survival of our people can easily be unloaded at other ports in Central America's sister nations and transported to Nicaragua by land.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Daniel Ortega Blames CIA

PA030308 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] A review of progress by the revolutionary government and Sandino's people in the field of health was made this morning by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Government Junta, when he opened the Congress of the Popular Health Campaigns at the Cesar Augusto Silva convention center. The leader highlighted the valuable contributions by the mass organizations to campaigns supporting the improvement of our people's health, even in the war zones, and praised their patriotism.

Commander Daniel Ortega warned those attending the congress, including Mexican Health Secretary Guillermo Soberon, that the Nicaraguan Government's efforts have been affected by the U.S. Government's aggressive attitude. Despite U.S. claims of supporting the Contadora Group's peace efforts, it is also intensifing the aggression against our country. Commander Daniel Ortega emphasized this point.

[Begin Ortega recording in process]...and every time the Contadora Group holds a meeting on the foreign minister level, or on the chief of state level as in Cancun sometime ago, the United States supports the Contadora Group effort in the military arena.

The United States claims to support Contadora, but how does it support Contadora? Not in the effort to seek peaceful solutions to the problems, not by encouraging peace in Central America; it supports it in its own way, by increasing its military presence in Central America, escalating its aggression against Nicaragua. And then when the Contadora Group was holding a meeting in Panama -- and this has become a normal thing, so that each time the Contadora Group meets we must expect it -- the United States introduces a new mode in its aggressive escalation against Nicaragua. With this new mode, it has begun mining Nicaragua's ports, placing mines at the entrance to the port of bluefields in the El Bluff zone. The mines have been provided by the U.S. Government through the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, because these mines cannot be acquired at the corner grocer's and even for a regular army it is difficult to procure mines, that is, for a regular army in Latin America. For example, it is not a simple task to get this type of mine. The U.S. Government has provided the mines that were planted by CIA agents who operate in central Nicaragua in the El Bluff region.

Damage has been done, but most important is the damage that affects human life. Two people are missing and we have seen wounded companeros. This is one of the truly dangerous escalations; it is what we could practically call the beginning of a military blockade against Nicaragua. The popular health campaigns, of course, have had to face this aggressive policy. I can say that one of the greatest difficulties the Nicaraguan revolution faces is that of undertaking, facing, and answering health demands as much as possible within the framework of the aggression. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Protests

PA030216 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0131 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Protest note sent by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry to George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, on 2 March]

[Text] Mr Secretary of State:

The announcement made yesterday by the terrorist forces organized, financed, and directed by the U.S. Government, via the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, that they have mined the ort of Corinto once again forces me to address you and to present to you a formal and strong protest on behalf of Nicaragua. This announcement is an addition to the criminal action that has already claimed its first victims at the port of El Bluff. This clearly establishes that the U.S. Government plans to impose a military blockade against Nicaragua and to increase, as never before in the area, the attacks against my country and the climate of tension in the Central American region. This latest announcement by the CIA's mercenary forces, made precisely at the conclusion of the Contadora Group's latest meeting, also shows your government's endeavor to frustrate the noble and generous efforts displayed by the Group to achieve peace in Central America. Also, the fact that the CIA mercenaries made the announcement in San Jose, Costa Rica, is further proof of the attempts displayed by the U.S. Government to affect the neutrality of that sister country, whose territory, aside from being used as a base for attacks on Nicaragua, is daily being turned more and more into a center for slander and propaganda campaigns for the terrorist actions aimed at increasing the tension in the area.

In conclusion, Mr Secretary, we cannot but warn you about the consequences of this policy implemented by your government through the CIA, which both damages Nicaragua and endangers international maritime traffic in the region, because we cannot disregard the possibility that one of these mines could be dragged beyond our coast by ocean currents.

In view of this, the Nicaraguan Government warns the international community and simultaneously makes the U.S. Government responsible for the loss of lives and material damage that could arise from its conduct, which transgresses the most basic international laws.

I take this opportunity to reiterate my esteem.

[Signed] Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister

Ramirez Scores Mining

PA040439 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2145 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 Mar (DPA) -- Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has termed the mining of waters near Nicaraguan ports an act of "piracy that is inadmissible by international law" and has accused the U.S. Administration of making plans against the Sandinist revolution.

In a news conference held in Managua today, Ramirez added that Nicaragua is ready to reestablish a "joint commission" with Costa Rica to discuss border problems. He blamed the existing tension between the two countries on the presence of the United States in Central America, and he said that his government will continue to support the principle of a mixed economy.

On the mining of the port of Corinto, which was denounced yesterday by the Sandinist government in an international communique, Ramirez said that "there is a threat from the counterrevolutionaries based in Costa Rica to mine the port of Corinto, just as they mined the port of El Bluff. This endangers international navigation not only for Nicaragua, but for other countries as well. These are acts of piracy inadmissible by international law."

Asked whether searches are being conducted to determine whether there are mines, Ramirez replied that security and defense forces are taking appropriate measures.

Concerning relations with Costa Rica, he said that these are tense due to an alien factor: "the U.S. military presence in the area, as well as the financial and military support that the U.S. Government is giving to the counterrevolutionary groups in the area, which are attacking Nicaragua from the border areas." He added that unless this situation changes, "it will be difficult not to have tense relations with Costa Rica." Nevertheless, he said that the joint commission with Costa Rica must be reestablished and that "we are prepared to again join it when the Costa Rican Government reaches an agreement with us. We do not consider this matter closed."

On the Nicaraguan evaluation of the recent meeting of the Contadora Group, Sergio Ramirez said that "progress is continuing in the formation of commitments and the work of the commissions, and we are awaiting the results of the next round of discussions." He warned, however, that "so long as the U.S. Government does not give indications of changing its aggressive attitude toward Nicaragua, so long as the United States answers the well-intended efforts of the Contadora Group countries by mining ports, staging terrorist attacks, and trying to provoke artificial conflicts with Costa Rica -- because we have to say that these are artificial conflicts with Costa Rica that the United States has provoked with its aggressive policy -- so long as this policy continues, so long as more funds are approved by the U.S. Congress to finance the counterrevolutionary gangs and the Somozists, it will be very difficult for the political and diplomatic work of the Contadora Group to be properly performed."

He said that the aggression is not only military, but economic, political, and diplomatic as well. He said: "They have cut our sugar quota, and we cannot export beef to the United States for reasons of agricultural sanitation. But the fact is that all this is part of the aggression, which still pleases many persons here in Nicaragua because of their economic interests. They are pleased and would like to see the noose tightened and the regime strangled."

Victor Tirado on Mining

PA042926 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The ARDE [Revolutionary Democratic Alliance] counterrevolutionaries have reported that they have mined our coasts. We don't know whether this is true or not, for we have not proven it, Commander Victor Tirado Lopez said last night during the closing session of the first congress on popular health campaigns.

Commander Tirado pointed out that imperialism is allocating large sums of money to its efforts to impose a military solution on the Central American crisis, but the Nicaraguan revolution will not be destroyed.

[Begin Tirado Lopez recording in progress]... and despite the constant attacks from U.S. imperialism, we have made efforts to maintain our levels of health, education, and culture. This is our political and moral force. No other country like ours could succeed as we have, nor could it be done elsewhere in Central America, either. No other Central American country can provide the education and health care that we give our people. Thus, we are responding to the principles of the revolution in the midst of these difficulties. This is why we tell you that none of your tasks, activities or advancements take place outside the framework of the military attacks that we are suffering.

The latest -- and this should be made clear, according to ARDE spokesmen -- is that this group has just declared that all of our coasts are full of mines. This is according to them. This is what they have said. They have just mined [words indistinct]. This could be true or false, we have not verified it. However, remember that the U.S. citizens, and particularly Ronald Reagan's U.S. policies [words indistinct]. They are using every available means to achieve a military solution to Central America's problems. This violates all international rights, all international agreements, and all human rights. Ronald Reagan's policies are intended to impose a military solution to Central America's conflicts. This is also where the problem of [words indistinct] lies. For although we live in the worst possible conditions, the word mister [words indistinct] whosoever may be in the White House or on the throne, whoever this might be, they will not decide the destiny of the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

We will decide this ourselves, at any cost. We will decide, even under the worst conditions. I think that the international community will help us. These are not the initial years of this century, they are the final years, during which the political patterns in the world have changed. We will suffer, we will be pressured, and they will even try to change our democracy, but we will fight back and we will show the U.S. imperialists that it is different here. [end recording]

MINISTRY PROTESTS ATTACKS 'FROM HONDURAS'

PA042146 Paris AFP in Spanish 2016 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 4 Mar (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Government today disclosed that "strong contingents" of anti-Sandinists "from Honduras" entered Nicaragua this week. The government also charged that two helicopters from that country yesterday attacked Nicaragua with rockets.

A protest note released by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry warned the Honduran Government that such actions could lead to a regional incident of "serious international proportions." The protest says that on Thursday, 1 March, "counterrevolutionary groups attacked the border towns of Viluascarma, Leimus, and Waspan" in the northeastern department of Zelaya. The protest note adds that "the penetration of strong contingents of mercenaries in that sector has been observed, and this makes us fear that there will be new and greater attacks against Nicaragua."

The Foreign Ministry also said that yesterday, Saturday, two helicopters from Honduras attacked the Potosi ferry and a Nicaraguan patrol boat that was protecting the sector of Punta San Jose. The two areas are located on the Gulf of Fonseca on the Pacific Ocean, shared by Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador. The Foreign Ministry added that the attacking helicopters withdrew to the Island of Amapala, where the Honduran Army has a military base.

The protest note went on to say that at 1300 hours more than 50 Honduran Army soldiers harassed the border post of Las Minitas, Chinandega Department for 10 minutes.

In its protest note the Sandinist government warned of "the serious consequences that could arise if these acts of aggression continue," adding that "if the Honduran Government does not act in accordance with its international obligations, an incident of serious proportions could arise."

FDN ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON SANDINO ANNIVERSARY

PA022324 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Feb 84 p 11-B

[Paid Advertisement: Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 17 February]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and the organization of Miskitos, Sumas, Ramas, and Creoles (Miskitos and Creoles) state the following on 21 February, the 50th anniversary of the death of General Augusto Cesar Sandino:

1. If, on such a memorable date, the government issues a decree that constitutes a violation of the sovereign rights of the Nicaraguan people, or fails to issue any decree, which could also violate their rights, either act of violation is tantamount to honoring the memory of the murderer and to mocking our nationalist hero.

2. Now is the proper point in history to recognize the people's legitimate rights.

3. Sovereignty lies with the people and thus it is the Nicaraguan people's responsibility to determine the ideological, political line of the government of the Republic and to elect those who will spearhead such a leadership by freely expressing their sovereign will through universal, secret, equal, personal, and non-delegable balloting in just, honest elections.

4. The elections are the culmination of a process in which there is complete freedom and in which the exercise of civil rights is guaranteed.

5. There can be no elections without an authentic, free electoral process, with guarantees for such before, during, and after the balloting.

6. The Somozist dictatorship held elections that were divorced from free and democratic processes, thus annulling these elections and violating the people's sovereignty.

7. National states of emergency, such as the one imposed by the so-called Sandinist government since March 1982, which is being toned down shortly before the elections, are old, corrupt, unjust, and fraudulent practices.

8. We reject elections of the Cuban-Soviet type that appoint tyrants for life behind the people's backs.

9. We advocate the democratic concepts and Western values contained in the document signed last 24 December 1983 by the following organizations: Nicaraguan Workers Federation (CTN), Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions (CUS), Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua (PCDN), Social Christian Party (PSC), Social Democratic Party (PSD), Authentic Popular Social Christian Party (PPSCA), Nicaraguan Chamber of Industries [CADIN], Nicaraguan Chamber of Construction (CANIC), Confederation of Nicaraguan Professional Associations (CONAPRO), Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE), and Union of Agriculture and Livestock Producers of Nicaragua (UPANIC).

[Signed] Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, President, National Directorate, Nicaraguan Democratic Force; Edgar Chamorro Coronel; Indalecio Rodriguez Alaniz; Enrique Bermudez Varela; Lucia C. de Salazar; Marco A. Zeledon Rosales; Alfonso Callejas Deshon

[Signed] Wilclyffe Diego, Political Coordinator, MISURAS and Creoles; Teofilo Archibald; Roger Hermann; Adan Artola; Orlando McLean; Silvio Diaz; Adriana Guillen

Responsible signature: Oscar Leonardo Montalban, Passport No 966

MISURA CLAIMS 'HUNDREDS' OF SANDINIST ARMY DEAD

PA031748 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1706 GMT 3 Mar 84

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A spokesman for the native anti-Sandinist Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas (MISURA) organization announced here today that they have occupied the Nicaraguan township of Waspan and inflicted "hundreds of deaths" on the Nicaraguan Army. This was announced to the press via radiotelephone by Steadman Fagoth Muller, head of the MISURA group, who led the attack on Waspan in Zelaya Department in the 48 hours of fighting.

Steadman's followers in Tegucigalpa took Honduran and foreign newsmen to their communications center completely blindfolded so that they could hear the rebel leader's statement.

"We destroyed four garrisons and inflicted considerable losses on three Sandinist battalions. Hundreds were killed and the survivors are fleeing through the jungle," Fagoth Muller told newsmen. The rebel leader said that they will leave Waspan in the next few hours because they do not intend to retain the military positions that they have occupied, although they do have antitank and antiaircraft weapons in their possession.

Fagoth Muller requested assistance for the anti-Sandinist cause from friendly countries, indicating that "they can drop supplies very easily by parachute at the Waspan airport, which we now control." The rebel leader specified that they have several wounded Sandinist prisoners, to whom they could not give proper medical treatment because of the scarcity of medicine needed for their own men.

He explained that they also control the highway leading to Kum and that the Sandinist reinforcements to Waspan have been stopped as a result. The anti-Sandinist leader told newsmen that his organization seized several U.S.-made M-16 and Soviet AK-47 rifles, 29,000 rounds of ammunition for both, RPG rocket launchers, and several medium weapons that have been added to their arsenal.

The MISURA leader also sent a message to HAVANA, Cuba, to Ileana Gonzalez Barcelo, sister of a Cuban soldier killed by his troops, Nelson Gonzalez Barcelo, who before dying begged him, according to Fagoth, to let his family know of his "failure." Fagoth admitted sustaining two dead, Roger Smith and William Escobar, and seven wounded.

Steadman Fagoth Muller said that his forces have learned tactics for fighting the Soviet T-54 tanks and other kinds of armor, adding that they have weapons capable of rendering such tanks useless. "Also," he added, "if the Sandinist aircraft come, their pilots will find out that they cannot now bomb us indiscriminately and get away with it, as they were able to do some months ago."

ARDE CLAIMS 7 KILLED, 11 WOUNDED IN AMBUSH

PA021713 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 1 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 186 released by the general command of Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, in "the mountains of southern Nicaragua" on 1 March]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the Nicaraguan people and to the free peoples of the world that:

At 1100 on 28 February 1984 the Alvaro Lopez Castillo reconnaissance and combat column, which belongs to the Barba-4 unit, ambushed one of the interventionist army's patrols in Comarca El Cacao, 17 km north of San Miguelito, in Rio San Juan Department. Our column inflicted 7 dead and 11 wounded on the demoralized enemy, which was forced to flee.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

CHERNENKO REMARKS ON U.S. BLOCKADE, THREAT NOTED

FL031414 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko has said in Moscow that the United States has used an economic blockade and military threats against socialist Cuba but that these attempts to frighten Cuba and to make it change its course have been doomed to failure. The CPSU general secretary said that they will fail because of the unity of the heroic Cuban people in supporting their Communist Party and the solidarity with the island of freedom shown by independent Latin American nations and the members of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Cuban people, he stressed, have the firm support of the brother socialist countries. Regarding the Soviet Union, Chernenko said that it has been, is, and will be on the side of Cuba in times of calm as well as in those of turmoil.

The Soviet leader spoke on the occasion of a meeting with voters of (Kuibichesky), a Moscow district, who promoted Chernenko's candidacy for Supreme Soviet deputy. At the meeting, Chernenko said: We must be concerned about whether our country and its friends and allies have sufficient security, and we are doing so. Let everyone know, he added, that no amateur at war adventures will catch the USSR by surprise, and no potential aggressor can trust that he will be able to avoid a demolishing counterblow.

After noting that the United States created obstacles to talks not only on Euromissiles but on strategic nuclear weapons, Chernenko emphasized that the elimination of these obstacles is the path to reach mutually acceptable agreements.

FAR COMMANDER RECEIVES POLISH NAVY COMMANDER

LD021457 Warsaw PAP in English 1410 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Havana, 2 March -- The secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba (?and) first vice-president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, Minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) Raul Castro Ruz received in Havana on March 1 member of the PUWP CC and Commander of the Polish Navy Admiral Ludwik Janczyszyn and a group of Polish officers.

RAUL CASTRO TOURS WARTIME DEFENSE ZONE

FL031345 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] General of the Army Raul Castro, FAR minister, toured a wartime defense zone in Jovellanos, Matanzas Province, on Thursday. Castro was accompanied by members of the Council of Ministers. The visitors were received by the plenum of the party's provincial Politburo headed by Esteban Lazo, its first secretary, as well as by members of the Executive Committee of the provincial assembly of the People's Government.

Lazo welcomed them and explained in detail the importance and objective of a wartime defense zone. The FAR minister and his retinue later witnessed exercises carried out by the people who have been organized in that area. The exercises to show how a defense zone works are part of a plan of systematic defense preparation to train the people that was approved by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the basis of conclusions reached after the "Bastion 83" strategic maneuvers.

TALKS BEGIN WITH CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER

Malmierca Presides

FL021133 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Official talks between the Foreign Ministries of Cuba and Cyprus have begun in this capital, presided over by Isidoro Malmierca and Yeoryios Iakovou, the foreign ministers of Cuba and Cyprus respectively. During the talks, the two sides examined bilateral relations and exchanged views on important matters of the international situation, especially in Cyprus, Central America, and the Caribbean. The Cypriot foreign minister arrived in Cuba on an official visit at the invitation of the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Reiterates Support for Cyprus

NC022227 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 2200 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Iakovou, who is on an official visit to Cuba, today continued the talks which started yesterday between him and his Cuban counterpart, Malmierca. During yesterday's meeting, Iakovou briefed Malmierca on the latest developments of the Cyprus issue and discussed ways of promoting the issue in the nonaligned sector and in international organizations.

During a dinner hosted by the Cuban foreign minister in honor of Iakovou, Malmierca reiterated his country's dedication to the principles which must rule a solution to the Cyrpus issue. He reaffirmed unreserved Cuban support for Cyprus.

Agreements Signed

FL030216 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The foreign ministers of Cuba and Cyprus, Isidoro Malmierca and George Iakovou respectively, signed two agreements this afternoon at the Cuban Foreign Ministry. One of the agreements concerns cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation, and the other deals with the elimination of visas to travel between the two countries.

The documents signed by the two foreign ministers state that there would be reciprocal attendance by Cuban and Cypriot delegations at congresses, conferences, and meetings that take place in the two countries. The agreements call for the exchange of different types of publications as well as the granting of scholarships for Cypriot students at various educational levels in Cuba. The agreements also mention the exchange of art exhibitions and films as well as journalistic cooperation.

Iakovou Meets With Rodriguez

NC031542 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1500 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Continuing his official contacts in Havana, Foreign Minister Iakovou today conferred with Carlos Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, whom he also briefed on the latest Cyprus developments. Rodriguez reiterated Cuba's firm support for the struggle of the Cypriot people for justice.

Earlier Iakovou and Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca signed an agreement on cultural cooperation between Cyprus and Cuba and an agreement on abolition of visas for diplomatic and official passports. The two ministers discussed bilateral relations and studied ways and means for further tightening the close, friendly ties between Cyprus and Cuba. They also discussed the nonaligned role on disarmament and easing international tension as well as various other international problems.

DEL VALLE, MONTANE MEET WITH DPRK'S CHONG

FL021446 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Sergio del Valle, Politburo member and minister of public health, has held a fraternal meeting in Havana with the delegation headed by Chong Chun-ki, candidate member of the Politburo of the Korean Workers' Party and vice premier of the State Administration Council of the DPRK. The North Korean delegation was also received by Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Secretariat, and chief of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the Central Committee. Both meetings took place in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere.

MONTANE, PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST LEADER MEET

FL022348 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the Secretariat's Central Committee, has met with (Carlos Galliza), secretary general of the Socialist Party of Puerto Rico, who is visiting our country. The two men discussed matters of mutual interest relating to the international situation and Cuba's complete solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico and their struggle for independence.

BULGARIAN DELEGATION VISITS VILLA CLARA PROVINCE

FL021908 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] A delegation of the Academy of Social Sciences and Social Work [Academia de Ciencias Sociales y de Gestion Social] of the Communist Party of Bulgaria is visiting Villa Clara on its tour of our country at the invitation of the party. (Aleksandur Kolev), vice rector of this institution, and (Georgi Konstantinov), director of the Center of Economic Management [Centro de Gestion de la Economia], were received by Eugenio Friol Hernandez, member of the Executive Bureau of Villa Clara Province.

BRAVO LEAVES FOR ANGOLA, CONGO, ZAMBIA

FL031425 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, member of the Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has left Havana for Africa, heading an ANPP delegation. On its tour, the delegation will visit the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Zambia, and the People's Republic of the Congo to complement parliamentary exchange visits planned for this year. Before boarding the plane, Bravo stressed the importance of strengthening relations in this way with three important countries with close ties to Cuba. He also noted that it is advantageous to have a mutual understanding of the opinions and stands of governments in view of the serious times that the world is currently experiencing.

DELEGATION RECEIVED BY BULGARIAN CULTURE CHAIRMAN

FL021940 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Chairman Georgi Yordanov of the Bulgarian Committee for Culture has received in Sofia the official Cuban delegation attending the Cuban Cultural Day celebration in Bulgaria. The delegation is headed by Vice Minister (Maria Luis Bravo). Various matters related to a future increase in Cuban-Bulgarian trade relations were studied during the meeting.

HUNGARIAN DOMESTIC TRADE MINISTER LEAVES

FL031950 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade Zoltan Juhar, the Hungarian domestic trade minister, who was in Cuba on a working visit, returned to his country last night. Cuban Domestic Trade Minister Manuel Vila Sosa and other officials of the Cuban Government and the Hungarian Embassy saw Juhar off at the airport.

Prior to boarding the plane, the Hungarian minister told this station:

[Begin Juhar recording in Hungarian fading into superimposed Spanish translation] I view the talks held here in Cuba as very fruitful because the protocol signed with Comrade Vila Sosa is aimed at increasing the exchange of products over last year's levels. For this reason, I feel that this protocol is both good and important, because it helps to increase the quantity of products that the people will receive and at the same time we are able to receive more Cuban products. In addition, the steps in the area of economic cooperation between the two domestic trade ministries are very positive.

We have seen that in Cuba important measures are being taken to improve the supply of products to the people despite the limitations that we are all aware of. Because of all this, I have said that I agree with protocol signed in Cuba. [end recording]

CDR CALL CITES GOALS SET BY FIDEL CASTRO AT CTC

FL031650 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] have issued a call to our people urging them to conduct successfully the economic, political, social, and military battles as requested by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro during the closing of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Union] Congress.

The CDR statement added that in view of a delay in the sugar harvest caused by the weather, CDR members will help wherever our party tells them to. Moreover, the document says, we must continue to give all assistance required by the people's government in nominating candidates to assemblies and in preparing the conditions for the April elections.

[Words indistinct], the CDR call added: It will be the goal of each CDR member to arrive at the Third Party Congress with a stronger organization in the construction of socialism.

REMAINS OF HERO EXHUMED, RETURNED TO NICARAGUA

FL032010 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The remains of Colonel Jose Santos Lopez were exhumed today with military honors at the Colon Cemetery in order to transfer them to Nicaragua where they will be placed in a mausoleum built for this purpose.

Santos Lopez, who was a member of the General Staff of the Army for the Defense of National Sovereignty organized by General Augusto Cesar Sandino, died in our country in 1965. The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, through a decree approved by the State Council, declared Santos Lopez a national hero.

Following the exhumation, Santos Lopez' remains were taken to Jose Marti International Airport where they were received with military honors corresponding to his high rank. The ceremony was presided over by Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo; Manuel Pineiro, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee; and other leaders of the Cuban party and government. [Central Committee member] Jorge Enrique Mendoza gave a speech to bid farewell to the Nicaraguan hero. Brigade Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the Political Directorate of the Sandinist People's Army, thanked the Cuban people and Government for having kept with honor the remains of the Nicaraguan hero.

DECLINE IN INFANT MORTALITY RATE REPORTED

FL021159 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Cuba has taken another step forward on the path to becoming a world medical superpower by reducing the nation's child mortality rate to the lowest figure in history. Thanks to the collective efforts of all health workers and the people, during 1983 the infant mortality rate was reduced to 16.8 per 1,000 live births, which is lower than in 1982. Having achieved this rate in the international development index is most significant if one considers that in 1959, when the revolution attained victory, the infant mortality rate was 60 per 1,000 live births.

Other factors that should be noted are the successes recorded by Matanzas Province, which has the lowest infant mortality rate in the country with 13 per 1,000 live births. The national maternal mortality rate also recorded a drop from 4.8 to 3.2, and the preschooler's and school-age child's mortality rate dropped to 0.8 and 0.4 respectively.

The successes and many others achieved by the health sector in the past work year will undoubtedly be acclaimed in the Public Health Ministry's annual meeting, to examine accomplishments which will be held today and tomorrow.

SELA OFFICIAL'S REMARKS ON L.A. DEBT NOTED

FL031445 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] SELA Assistant Permanent Secretary (Homero Luis Hernandez) has said that the $350 billion that Latin America owes is the largest mortgage the transnationals could ever have subjected us to. (Hernandez) said that this huge foreign debt is spoiling the aspirations for a new world economic order that could be more just and equitable.

The SELA official, who is participating in a meeting of the Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America in Mexico City, charged that the industrialized, capitalist countries led Latin America to indebtedness through small aid.

He noted the urgent need to implement an economic plan to allow nations of the region and those of the Third World to keep part of their resources for development so that they do not have to use all of their foreign currency revenues to pay off the debt. He stressed the need to eradicate, once and for all, armed invasions whose wounds are still hurting. He warned that the recent military action against Grenada and the war over the Malvinas still prevent the digging of furrows for sowing.

COMMENTARY VIEWS POLISARIO FRONT STRUGGLE

PA022059 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 84

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] The Western Saharan people have celebrated the eighth anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic at the time of a new military escalation from the Moroccan regime and during the OAU ministers meeting for the sake of African unity, which the Western Saharans are not attending.

On 26 February 1976, coinciding with the withdrawal of the Spanish colonialists from Western Sahara, the political leadership of the Polisario Front proclaimed the independence of the former colonial territory and the Constitution of the Republic. This decision was adopted following a tripartite agreement signed by Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania on 17 November 1975. This agreement turned the administration of the colony over to Rabat and Nouakchott, completely disregarding the opinion and will of the Saharan people, who for many years had been struggling for national independence.

In his last speech, (El Waly Mustafa Sayed) -- the late leader of the Polisario Front -- said: Our struggle is not only a struggle against the Western countries and the Moroccan and Mauritanian regimes, but one between progressive and reactionary forces. This is a struggle of the nationalists against those who preach slavery and guard the interests of the imperialists.

The struggle continued under the banner of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic against the Moroccan and Mauritanian invaders. This struggle represented a true human drama: Tens of thousands of Saharans had to leave their homes in La'youn, Smara, (Jala), and other cities and villages because of attacks from Rabat's and Mauritania's armored vehicles and Air Forces. The Rabat regime occupied the northern and central part of Western Sahara and the Mauritanian troops occupied the southern part of the country.

In addition to this, the Western Saharan authorities had to assure the security of the civilian population, establish state institutions, and organize a people's army to face the aggressors who wanted to annex Western Sahara. Actions such as those in Nouakchott, Amgala, (Tifanti), (Ra'ek Hamfra), and others were serious blows to the occupation forces.

In August 1979, the Mauritanian Government that emerged following the overthrow of the Ould Daddah regime signed a peace treaty with the Polisario Front. The treaty resulted in the withdrawal of the Mauritanian troops from Western Sahara. As a result of this, the Madrid tripartite treaty was no longer valid.

Since then the Western Saharan people have been tirelessly fighting to expel the Moroccans, who have a well-equipped Army and have had to fortify themselves behind walls in the northern region of Western Sahara.

In addition to these military victories, in 1982 the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic was accepted by the OAU as its 51st member-state. The next year both the OAU and the United Nations called for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front so that a self-determination referendum could be held before December 1983.

The Moroccan regime, however, has repeatedly caused the stagnation of all negotiations aimed at solving the Western Sahara problem. This regime, with logistic aid from the United States, wants to upset the situation. To this end it has deployed the largest military force in its history.

To the Western Saharan people, however, this does not represent a permanent obstacle. If in 1983, the walls of the so-called Useful Triangle [Triangulo Util] -- which had electronic detection devices -- were unable to halt the victorious attacks of the Western Saharans, neither will their march be stopped by the new walls that Rabat plans to erect to keep the attacks away from the city of Smara and the phosphate mines of (Boukra).

Western Saharan leader Mohamed Abdelaziz has said that the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic will be present at the 20th summit meeting of the OAU, which will take place in Conakry, the capital of Guinea, and that it will be there with the same firmness that will be applied until the invading Moroccans are expelled from the fatherland.

SALVADORAN PRESIDENT SEEKS INCREASED U.S. AID

PA050017 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana has admitted that the 25 March elections will not solve the serious socioeconomic and political problems faced by the country. However, Magana added, elections are the only path to justice and democracy in El Salvador. President Magana is on a private visit to the United States and made these statements during a dinner in his honor in San Antonio, Texas.

Magana criticized the U.S. Congress for blocking military aid for his regime and stressed that the Salvadoran Army is in need of more weapons. Magana urged Washington to increase to $400 million its military aid to the Salvadoran regime.

Meanwhile, THE NEW YORK TIMES has presented further proof of former Salvadoran Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's involvement with the death squads in El Salvador. The newspaper quotes a former Salvadoran Army officer, who described the current presidential candidate for the ultrareactionary ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party as an anarchic psychopath responsible for the violence that has overtaken the country in the past 4 years. The former Salvadoran Army officer, who wishes to remain anonymous, has also linked former Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia, Eugenio Vides Casanova, and Treasury Police Chief Nicolas Carranza with the paramilitary groups.

D'Aubuisson has announced in San Salvador that he will visit the United State this week; however, the U.S. State Department still has not granted him a visa.

MILITARY SUFFRAGE IN EL SALVADOR FAULTED

PA021548 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Central Electoral Council of El Salvador has authorized the military to vote in the presidential elections on 25 March, thereby negating the avowed apolitical character of the Salvadoran Armed Forces. The Central Electoral Council's decision has caused widespread alarm and concern among Salvadoran labor and political sectors, which feel that the step guarantees a right-wing victory in the electoral farce being promoted by the United States.

FDR LEADER ON 'U.S.-BACKED' SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

PA032119 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The elections programmed by Washington for El Salvador are simply a maneuver to foist a political facade on the military solution that Washington actually intends to apply in that country, Eduardo Calles, FDR vice president, has told this station. Calles added that the White House candidate is Napoleon Duarte, a man who suffered complete failure in his previous government term and who is roundly rejected by the extreme rightist sectors of El Salvador.

The FDR leader added that the FDR condemns the elections because of their demagogic nature and said that they have prepared a draft document for a negotiated solution of the electoral conflict that is amply supported domestically and abroad.

Calles pointed out that Salvadoran guerrillas are winning because of the people's support and noted that the Kissinger commission's report on El Salvador is designed to aid Ronald Reagan's interventionist policy. It is most unfortunate, concluded Eduardo Calles, that these congressmen have decided to support an adventurous line that could have unpredictable consequences.

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. POLICY ON NICARAGUA

PA020455 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 1 Mar 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] In 1983 Nicaragua was the object of more than 100 armed provocations on the border with Honduras, 19 counterrevolutionary air raids, and more than 60 naval violations against civilian and military targets.

Nicaragua continues to be the object of flagrant violations of its sovereignty and territorial integrity by counterrevolutionary forces financed, armed, and trained by the United States. However, all the counterrevolutionary plans to establish a beachhead in Nicaraguan territory have failed. The mercenary forces have only found the people's rejection in Nicaragua, because the people are willing to take up arms to defend what they finally won with so many sacrifices on 19 July 1979.

According to reports from Managua, there are currently some 3,700 contras in the Atlantic, central, and northwestern regions of Nicaragua from ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu and Rama Sandinst Unity], and the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], which in the past year has received $62 million from Washington. With all the extravagant financial and military resources that the U.S. Government has given to the counterrevolutionary groups, the latter have not managed to frighten, much less to defeat, the Nicaraguan people. Simultaneously, Washington has been strengthening its aid to the armies of its allies in the region, especially Honduras, where the presence of U.S. forces is constantly increasing.

Every day U.S. threats to invade Nicaragua directly become stronger. Washington no longer has excuses to wield as justification for its interventionist aims. The moving up of the Nicaraguan election date has established a new problem for the United States.

Commander Julio Ramos, chief of military intelligence of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], said that the new election date of 4 November this year has added a new dimension to the political cost the Reagan government will have to pay if it decides to invade Nicaragua. Julio Ramos added that for the United States as well as for Nicaragua the current year will focus on their respective presidential elections. The U.S. Government, he added, would not be able to support internally the political cost of an invasion of Nicaragua. An invasion in 1985 could be more logical for the U.S. Government, although in this case, he stressed, it must face the world community, which has closely followed and supported the Nicaraguan Government's efforts to consolidate the country's institutionalization. The Nicaraguan authorities' decision to move up the general elections to November of this year was received with expressions of support and admiration. Hans Jergen Wischnewski, FRG social democratic leader, praised the Nicaraguan institutionalization process, about which he learned more during his recent visit to this Central American country.

Meanwhile, Alfonso Barrantes, the mayor of Lima, said that the Nicaraguan electoral process will demonstrate the hypocrisy of imperialism, which demands elections in Nicaragua while it does not even hint at elections in Chile. This further shows, he added, that it is not a matter of defending democracy, as the United States claims, but of defending U.S. interests rather than those of Latin America.

NICARAGUA CHARGES U.S. BEGINNING BLOCKADE

FL031547 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has charged in Managua that the mining of Bluefields [as heard] port is practically the beginning of a U.S. military blockade against Nicaragua. Ortega spoke at the opening of a conference on the people's health drive and said that Washington is now using a new aggressive method against Nicaragua. He said that the mines were dropped by speedboats that attacked port installations and ships on the Atlantic coast and were supplied by the U.S. Government through the CIA.

Ortega said that it is hard for regular Latin American armies to obtain this type of mine. Ortega noted that the recent attack, which results in two deaths and seven persons wounded as well as large property losses, was carried out by CIA agents operating against Nicaragua.

Protest Note to Shultz Cited

PA040448 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The Sandinist government has warned that international sea traffic is in great danger if reports that counterrevolutionary forces have mined Nicaragua's main port, Corinto, are true. In his second protest note in less than a week to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto refers to a statement to that effect made in San Jose, Costa Rica, by a spokesman of one of the counterrevolutionary organizations sponsored by the CIA.

In his note, D'Escoto stresses that this situation forces Nicaragua to file its strongest protest over this situation, which followed the recent mining of the El Bluff port, an action that has already claimed several dead and wounded and the loss of several ships.

In his protest, D'Escoto notes that these attacks clearly demonstrate that the U.S. Government is planning to impose a military blockade on Nicaragua. After accusing the U.S. Government of diligently trying to block the noble efforts of the Contadora Group in favor of peace in Central America, the Nicaraguan foreign minister called attention to the fact that CIA mercenaries in San Jose have announced the mining of Corinto Port. D'Escoto said that this proves that the United States is trying to interfere with Costa Rica's neutrality, adding that this country is not only being used as a base for attacks against Nicaragua, but also -- and increasingly each day -- as a center for defamatory campaigns and propaganda for terrorist actions aimed at increasing tension in Central America.

In conclusion, Nicaragua held the United States responsible for all victims and property damage resulting from U.S. behavior, which violates the most elemental norms of international law.

NICARAGUA'S TIRADO CITED ON PRESS CENSORSHIP

PA031943 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Commander Victor Tirado, member of the FSLN National Directorate, has reiterated that press censorship will be lifted at the appropriate time, despite the difficulties that Nicaragua is now facing. Tirado made this comment last night at the most important ceremony held to mark National Newsmen's Day in Managua.

The Government Junta established press censorship when it decreed a state of emergency on 5 March 1982, when the counterrevolutionaries had begun to sabotage important economic objectives. The Sandinist leader said that Nicaragua is still facing difficulties, because there is still a threat of U.S. aggression against Nicaragua. Tirado warned of an intensification of the idelogical struggle now that elections have been scheduled for November and urged the press never to sever its links with the masses.

NICARAGUAN TEACHERS TAKING TRAINING COURSES

PA021543 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0900 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Havana, 2 Mar (EFE) -- More than 1,500 young Nicaraguans are receiving intensive teaching courses in Cuba to become primary school teachers and replace the Cubans who now go to Nicaragua on a regular basis. According to reports published here, these intensive courses, which include mathematics, Spanish, psychology, teaching, and practicums, will conclude in June. The reports indicate that the young Nicaraguans' study plans do not include the instruction on "initial military preparation" that all Cuban secondary school students receive.

The purpose of this course is to progressively reduce the number of Cuban teachers who have been going to Nicaragua every year since 1979. The most recent group of Cuban teachers, which served in that Central American country for the 1982-83 school year, returned here in November, prompting speculation that Cuba would be sending no more teachers to Nicaragua. Cuba was then under the impact of the invasion of Grenada, where 24 Cuban construction workers died, and the media were reporting daily that a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua was being threatened.

Cuban sources have told EFE, however, that the Cuban teachers will return this month, although there will not be as many because there will be no women this time. All of the teachers will be men, capable of taking up weapons if necessary. In recent months, many female Cuban medical and health personnel who were serving in Nicaragua have been withdrawn from that country.

According to Fidel Castro, there were 4,000 Cubans in Nicaragua in July, a figure that included 200 military advisers. It would be impossible today to guess how many Cubans are there, as they come and go in a constant stream between the two countries. For some reason, Cuba's media have begun to use new terminoloy when referring to the civilian personnel abroad; while before they were simply called "internationals," they are now being called "internationalist collaborators."

U.S. DECISION TO FINISH GRENADIAN AIRPORT NOTED

FL021512 Havana Televison Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The United States is not saying whether its decision to complete the Point Salines Airport in Grenada is the result of the Pentagon's military needs or of plans to control the small island economically. In a letter addressed to Governor General Paul Scoon, President Ronald Reagan guaranteed that his administration will finance the last part of the airport, which he had always described as a Cuban-Soviet military installation in the Caribbean.

In a statement read over the raido, Scoon said that he was pleased because the U.S. President stressed that the U.S. Government has vowed to complete the airport. He also said that the White House has given instructions to (Charles Gillespie) in St George's to tell Grenadian officials about Reagan's project for Grenada's airport.

PRELA QUOTED ON CLOSING OF REYNOLDS IN JAMAICA

FL021445 Havana Televison Service in Spanish 1235 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] According to a PRENSA LATINA dispatch, the definite closing of Reynolds, an affiliate of a U.S. monopoly which mines bauxite in Jamaica, and the subsequent dismissal of 200 workers will plunge that country into an unprecedented economic chaos.

Reynolds, which began operations in Jamaica in the early 1950's announced this week that it would cease operations on the island, alleging excessive production costs. In terms of foreign exchange revenues, Jamaica will lose $30 million this year and at the same time it will be complelled to cut its 1984-1985 budget by an additional 100 million Jamaican dollars, Prime Minister Edward Seaga conceded. The Jamacian leader noted that the closing of Reynolds will also have adverse effects on negotiations that the Seaga administration is conducting with the IMF in Washington in an effort to obtain an emergency loan for approximately $180 milion.

SURINAME'S BOUTERSE CITED ON POSSIBLE INVASION

FL031458 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] In a meeting with the popular militia held in Paramaribo, Lieutenant Colonel Desi Bouterse has reported the possibility of a mercenary invasion of Suriname. The Surinamese leader said that a large number of individuals, whom he described as counterrevolutionaries and mercenaries, have been gathering in nearby French Guiana to prepare an invasion led by former Surinamese military officers.

Bouterse said that a well-known intelligence agency has supplied $500,000 to a so-called Liberation Council headed by former Prime Minister Henk Chin-A-Sen, an exile in the Netherlands.

PRESIDENT JORGE BLANCO MAKES HIGH-LEVEL CHANGES

FL021945 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 25 Feb 84 pp 1, 4

[Article by R. Rodriguez G.]

[Text] President Salvador Jorge Blanco last night appointed a new technical secretary of the presidency and a new agriculture secretary. He also appointed new directors for the Agricultural Bank, the Dominican Agrarian Institute, the Office for the Development of the Community, and the Education Secretariat's Student Welfare Department.

Decree No 1840 appointed Orlando Haza del Castillo as the new technical secretary of the presidency, replacing Ramon Alburquerque, who was left without duties in the state bureaucracy.

Other appointments contained in Decree No 1839 were:

Domingo Marte, who was appointed secretary of state for agriculture, replacing Rafael Angeles Suarez.

In turn, Angeles Suarez was appointed general administrator of the Agricultural Bank, replacing Manuel de Ovin Filpo.

Ovin Filpo was appointed director general of the Dominican Agrarian Institute, replacing Diomedes Castellanos.

Castellanos was appointed director of the Office for the Development of the Community, replacing Juan Bosco Guerrero.

Bosco Guerrero was appointed director general of the Education Secretariat's Student Welfare Department, replacing Julio Nolasco Rodriguez.

Alburquerque and Nolasco Rodriguez were left without government jobs.

All the officials who were removed occupied posts from the beginning of the Jorge Blanco administration on 16 August 1982.

JORGE BLANCO ISSUES ARMED FORCES DAY MESSAGE

FL021905 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 25 Feb 84 p 3

[Message addressed to the Dominican Armed Forces by President Salvador Jorge Blanco on the occasion of Armed Forces Day on 25 February]

[Text] On this significant date when the Republic recalls our hero Ramon Matias Mella and commemorates Armed Forces Day, I want to congratulate all the members of our glorious military organizations.

Our armed institutes deserve the citizens' greatest respect and recognition not only because they have accomplished an institutionalization that is growing increasingly perfect but because of the many social services rendered to the community through the various plans of civic action in which they participate.

My congratulations, then, to these hard-working Dominicans who are playing an important role in safeguarding the nation and contributing to its development, as well as maintaining its democratic system.

CARICOM, SELA AGREE ON ECHANGE OF INFORMATION

FL021824 Bridgetown CANA in English 1427 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 2 (CANA) -- The Guyana-based Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) have agreed on a programme of cooperation including the exchange of information on matters such as trade developments, it has been officially announced here.

The announcement followed talks here between a visiting six-member SELA delegation and top officials of the Secretariat.

No details of the arrangement were given, but a Secretariat [announcement] said SELA's relations with Caricom were discussed when delegation leader Sebastian Alegrett met with Caricom Secretary General Roderick Rainford and senior officials here. Alegrett also had talks with Guyana President Forbes Burnham, Minister of Finance Carl Greenridge and Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean Rudy Insanally. "The talks focussed on the current thrust of SELA, activities planned for the remainder of the decade, as well as Guyana's role in the functioning of the organisation, and a working party is expected to be set up here to discuss Guyana's participation in SELA," the official said.

SELA was formed in 1975 in Panama with the objective of promoting the economic development of sovereign member states through intra-regional cooperation. Five Caricom states, Barbados, Guyana, Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago are members of SELA.

Guyana serves on four SELA action committees concerned with fertilizers, the promotion and marketing of handicrafts, seafoods and freshwater products and food supplements of a high nutritional value.

The SELA team left Guyana today.

ANGUILLA

14 CANDIDATES TO RUN IN MARCH SNAP ELECTIONS

FL021320 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Fourteen candidates including one independent will run in the March 9 elections for Anguilla's seven-seat House of Assembly. Chief Minister (Ronald Webster) called the snap election last week in an effort to win a vote of confidence for his government's economic programs.

BERMUDA

FORMER GOVERNOR REPAYS GOVERNMENT NEARLY $15,000

FL031520 Bridgetown CANA in English 1347 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, March 3 (CANA-REUTER) -- Sir Richard Posnett, the former governor of Bermuda who resigned a year ago, has paid back nearly 15,000 dollars claimed by the British colony, the government has said.

Finance Minister David Gibbons told Parliament yesterday the government had received full settlement of its claim from Posnett, who has retired and lives in England. He gave no other details but has previously told Parliament the claim was for expenses that had been charged to the governor's entertainment allowance.

The government called in inspectors from Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office 18 months ago to check Posnett's financial accounts after becoming concerned about his expenses. Posnett has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. When he quit his 70,000-dollar a year post last March, he said it was because publicity had made it impossible for him to continue.

GRENADA

BRATHWAITE ASKS PEOPLE TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING

FL031750 Bridgetown CANA in English 1710 GMT 3 Mar 84

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 3 (CANA) -- Head of Grenada's caretaker government, Nicholas Brathwaite, has called for a more understanding attitude from nationals towards the country's economic problems exacerbated by last October's U.S.-led military intervention.

His comment was made at a press conference last night which reviewed his visit last month to the United States to attend a World Bank-sponsored International Aid Donors' Conference for the Caribbean. Brathwaite appealed to Grenadians to have patience with the efforts by the government to find aid to bolster the economy because "we would want to ensure that the people who are interested in hotels and developing industry in the country are properly checked." He said the interim government, which took office in the aftermath of the intervention, was now in a position to state that the outlook for the island's economic development is much brighter than when it was sworn in last November.

Brathwaite indicated that the nine-man government has been holding discussions with several private sector bodies, including those directly involved in the hotel industry, which have expressed some interest in constructing hotels here. He stressed that negotiations with some of these people were at an advanced stage, but said: "I am not in a position now to name specifically the companies which have expressed interest."

The Grenada Government, Brathwaite said, has received assurances from several countries and international agencies in connection with assistance for infrastructural development in the areas of electricity, roads, telephone and sewerage disposal systems. The government, he added, was in the process of identifying the projects which it would like to fund with a one million pound sterling loan made available to the island last month by Britain. This money is an interest free loan repayable over a 25-year period.

On the U.S. trip itself, Brathwaite spoke of bi-lateral discussions held with several countries, and said: "We received a sympathetic hearing."

He added: "It was generally agreed that regardless of what position some countries took on the intervention, it was now necessary to look at the future rather than recall the past, and do everything possible to help the people of Grenada to recover from the unfortunate experiences of October 1983."

This was a reference to the slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, three cabinet ministers, and several others in a bloody military coup last October which led to the U.S.-led military intervention to restore order.

According to Brathwaite, both Canada and Britain have pledged assistance in agricultural development, which the interim government sees as one of the areas in which employment opportunities could be realised. The British Government late last year announced a 750,000 pound sterling grant to this former colony to be spent on agriculture, electricity and, in particular, on the rehabilitation of the island's police force.

In addition, Brathwaite said, the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is to assist government's efforts to refurbish existing hotels to boost the tourism sector.

BRATHWAITE ON APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR TO UN

FL031736 Bridgetown CANA in English 1616 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 3 (CANA) -- Grenada's interim government has indicated that it may soon name a new ambassador to the United Nations to replace the deposed People's Revolutionary Government appointee, Caldwell Taylor. Head of the interim administration, Nicholas Brathwaite, just back from the United States where he held talks with UN officials on the matter, said that because of UN regulations, Taylor still has the right to sit at meetings of the General Assembly as Grenada's representative. "This is due to the fact that in order to have representatives changed, one has to submit an application to what is called the Credentials Committee, which has to process it and then has to come to a decision which is presented to the General Assembly for ratification" Brathwaite said. He added: "This committee did not think it was advisable to pursue the matter at its meeting in December-January, particularly because the international climate was considered hostile." "From the information which I have received, I would say that the climate has improved and it is our hope that the matter would be cleared up during the next meeting of the General Assembly due to take place later this month."

Brathwaite gave no indication as to how soon the government expected to name an ambassador nor the person likely to take up the post.

The People's Revolutionary Government was ousted in an Army coup last October 19. The military government installed was toppled by a U.S.-led invasion six days later.

CARIBBEAN LAWYERS SOUGHT FOR BISHOP MURDER TRIAL

FL031730 Bridgetown CANA in English 1605 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 3 (CANA) -- Grenada's interim government is recruiting Caribbean lawyers to prosecute people charged in connection with the murders of political leaders during a military coup last October, Chairman Nicholas Brathwaite said.

He told reporters last night that the caretaker administration is making "every effort" to put together a team of well-qualified lawyers. Eighteen of the island's former military and political leaders will reappear before a magistrate in a preliminary hearing on April 4 to face charges of murder and conspiracy to murder Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, three cabinet ministers and four others last October 19.

Brathwaite did not say where the prosecution lawyers would be recruited but noted that the Barbados Bar Association had offered legal assistance and Grenada was seeking legal co-operation with Trinidad and Tobago. He said negotiations were continuing regarding an appointment to the post of director of public prosecutions. He declined to elaborate but he was quoted in New York last month as saying that a Grenadian barrister in Canada had been identified for the job.

JAMAICA

SEAGA ANNOUNCES CREDIT FOR CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

FL030046 Bridgetown CANA in English 2354 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 2 (CANA) -- Prime Minister Edward Seaga has announced that some 140 million dollars (one Jca dollar; 30 cents U.S.) in credit is to be made available to the Jamaican construction sector within the next year. In addition, he said a re-discount window will be opened at the Bank of Jamaica in the next two weeks in a move to ease some of the pressure falling on that sector in terms of the credit measures and restrictions on available credit now prevailing. Seaga made the announcements in a speech at yesterday's opening of the Life of Jamaica head office in Kingston.

The re-discount window at the Bank of Jamaica will enable credit to be channelled specifically by the government to ease some of the difficulties being experienced in the construction sector in particular, and so that credit may be extended along the lines of government policy, Seaga explained. He added that all increments of credit available this year would go into the productive sectors.

The Prime Minister said the 140 million dollars represented a decline of 47 million dollars over what was available last year, and that a "pinch" would be felt in terms of expectations for the development of new buildings and housing projects within the construction sector. He gave the assurance, however, that the steps being taken would relieve the pressures and facilitate early access to available credit for the construction sector and other areas of production, thereby enabling them to continue production without setbacks.

Seaga pointed out that the credit measures were designed to assist in the rebuilding of the other productive sectors of the economy, and to create a significant improvement in the generating of foreign exchange earnings. He pointed out further that the manufacturing sector had been relieved of some of the strain under which it had been operating, particularly in the bureaucracy. This, he said, should put it in a much better position to compete and to become a net earner of foreign exchange.

He said the devaluation of the Jamaica dollar last year would also help the sector to be more competitive.

BANKERS DENY ALLEGED BLACK MARKET INVOLVEMENT

FL030146 Bridgetown CANA in English 2335 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 2 (CANA) -- Jamaican commercial banks have rejected government allegations that they are involved in any large-scale channelling of foreign exchange to the black market, or that they allowed their customers to escape the tight credit ceiling imposed here in January. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Edward Seaga told reporters a week ago that there was police evidence of some bank managers offering customers more Jamaican dollars than the agreed rates, for their foreign exchange, as well as at times channelling hard currency away from the official system. "Let me say up front that despite published reports, no arrests have been made, and neither has any serious officer been held in connection with any big time currency racket," Banker's Association President Ron Sasso told journalists.

Sasso, who is chairman and managing director of Royal Bank Jamaica, admitted that, like any large-scale operations, there were "a few employees" who have been tempted to take advantage of "rapid fire" changes in Jamaica's foreign exchange policies and "the divergence between the letter and the spirit of the law." But he rejected that there was widespread misdeeds in the banking system.

Government set a 12 per cent ceiling on new private sector loans this year, with a four per cent rate each quarter. But before the announcement was made, banks had covered their quotas, in some cases beyond the first half of the year.

Sasso said that without the advantage of "on-line" computers, it took several days to get a clear reading on the level of overall credit expansion. Further, he said, information of the government's intention to restrict credit was known to members of the public "who no doubt came in and drew down funds within their established limits." Much higher rates of inflation last year and higher Jamaica dollar requirements to meet foreign exchange outlays pushed up credit demands, he said.

PNP VOICES CONCERN OVER NEGOTIATIONS WITH IMF

FL021918 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Concern at "the continued silence" of the Government concerning negotiations with the International Monetary Fund was voiced again yesterday by the People's National Party.

A statement issued by the president of the party, Mr Michael Manley, commented that it is now three months since the first announcement was made concerning the Standby Facility, "but no information has been given to the country."

Following is the text of the statement:

"The People's National Party is extremely concerned at the continued silence of the Government concerning negotiations with the International Monetary Fund for a Standby Facility.

"The country must remember that on November 23, 1983, the then Prime Minister on reviewing the performance of his Government said that due to the failure of the March and September IMF tests, it has been decided that the 3-year Extended Fund Facility would be replaced by the Standby Facility. He said at the time that the Standby Facility would be for U.S.$180 million for fifteen (15) months from January 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985.

"At the meeting with the Private-Public Sectors and the Diplomatic Corps held at the Bank of Jamaica Auditorium on Thursday, February 9, 1984, Mr Seaga rehashed old propaganda concerning the economy and spoke of meeting with the International Monetary Fund Managing Director on Monday, February 13, 1984.

"It must also be recalled that at the JLP Conference on Sunday, February 12, 1984, Mr Seaga again spoke of going to Washington to conclude the negotiations and said he would tell the country about new economic strategies.

"Mr Seaga has since returned to the country and not a word has been said to the country about the discussions with the IMF. Instead, all the country is treated to are reports on the mysterious visit to Costa Rica -- a visit the Jamaican public did not know about -- a visit of which there was no advance announcement.

"Once again the People's National Party has to ask:

1. What is the state of the negotiations with the IMF?

2. When is the new agreement to be signed and put into effect?

3. Are there serious developments and what are the areas of differences?

"It is now three (3) months since the first announcement concerning the Standby Facility negotiations, but no information has been given to the country.

"The People's National Party contends that the Jamaican people have the right to know the state of the negotiations and how the country will be financing its inputs for the year.

"The People's National Party can only conclude that Mr Seaga is privatising the financial affairs of the country. Since September, five (5) long months, the country has not been told the truth and, in fact, the country is being kept in a state of 'limbo'.

"If bullets are indeed to be bitten, we need to know their size, their shape, their composition, and whether our teeth will survive the encounter.

"The country must also remember that Mr Seaga said he called the December 15 General Elections because the People's National Party had challenged his credibility. With the state of things as they are, his credibility is still very much in question as far as the PNP is concerned."

BOUTERSE CHARGES GROUP PREPARING INVASION PLANS

PA020206 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Suriname strongman Desi Bouterse has reported that a relatively large group is in neighboring French Guiana preparing to invade Suriname. Bouterse said this in a meeting with the Popular Militia. Two Surinamese citizens who, according to Bouterse, have maintained contact with the alleged invasion group have been arrested.

Military Activity Increased

PA021336 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1108 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The Hague, 2 Mar (EFE) -- According to reports circulating in the capital of the Netherlands, Surinamese Army Commander Desi Bouterse has charged that a "very important group" has been preparing since January to invade his country from French Guiana.

Bouterse said Thursday that two people who were recently arrested in Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, have been accused of having links with the "counterrevolutionaries." According to Bouterse, the current leader of the military junta that seized power in Suriname, the group that is plotting against him is composed of mercenaries, refugees, and former military men from Suriname.

It has been observed in the past few days that there has been an increase in military activities. The streets are being patrolled at night by men in armored vehicles and a watch on the Suriname River has been established, according to sources close to the Netherlands.

Bouterse has said that the many intentional fires that have been set in Paramaribo in the last few weeks are part of the preparations for the "coup d'etat."

The Surinamese foreign minister has asked the French Embassy for information on the activities of Surinamese opposition groups operating in French Guiana.

Two Arrested

PA021940 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1843 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Amsterdam, 2 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Suriname's military government has arrested two men on the charge of helping to prepare an invasion of the country from neighboring French Guiana, the Dutch news agency ANP reported today.

An ANP dispatch datelined Paramaribo states that Desi Bouterse, the former Dutch colony's leftist leader, announced that a large number of former Surinamese soldiers and mercenaries have been preparing an invasion in French Guiana since January.

Bouterse identified the two arrested men as Plein and Brewster and said that they had links with the plotters on the other side of the border. He gave no further details.